CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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VVPAT slips on road, babus under fire

Election Commission suspends official after mock VVPAT slips found discarded in Bihar

BIHAR
Election 2025

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday ordered immediate action and suspended an official after mock Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips were found discarded on a road in Samastipur district, Bihar. The incident took place near KSR College in the Sarairanjan assembly constituency, prompting widespread concern over the handling of election materials.

The EC clarified that the slips in question were mock VVPAT slips, used to test Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) before polling. District Magistrate (DM) Roshan Kushwaha was directed to inspect the site and carry out a detailed inquiry. Following the incident, an FIR has been registered, and the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) responsible for the negligence has been suspended.

What did RJD say?

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), led by Tejashwi Yadav, shared a video on social media alleging that a significant number of VVPAT slips were carelessly thrown on the road. The party demanded an explanation from the EC, questioning when, why, and under whose instructions the slips were discarded. RJD MP Manoj K Jha also wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, urging stricter security for strong rooms where EVMs are stored, citing concerns over power disruptions and the safety of election equipment.

Samastipur DM responds

Addressing the issue, DM (District Magistrate) of Samastipur Roshan Kushwaha confirmed that his team had taken possession of the slips in the presence of candidates. "Some slips were found near the dispatch centre under the Sarairanjan constituency. An FIR has been lodged, and two officials have been recommended for departmental inquiry," he said.

While the EC emphasized that mock slips do not impact actual polling outcomes, it underlined the importance of adhering to strict protocols and accountability. The administration has assured that measures will be implemented to prevent such lapses in future elections, maintaining the integrity and transparency of the electoral process in the district.

Cong came to power through 'vote chori': Ashoka

BENGALURU

Criticizing the Congress over alleged vote manipulation, opposition leader R. Ashoka claimed that the party rose to power through "vote theft." Speaking in Bengaluru, he stated that while Congress may have collected one crore signatures, his party could gather support from seven crore people.

Ashoka targeted Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he has presented no evidence for vote fraud claims and merely shows screens with false statements. He warned that if there is any legal violation, complaints can be filed in court, where Congress leaders have allegedly manipulated the system in Malur, resulting in disqualification of their own MLAs.

He asserted that Congress lacks moral authority to comment on vote fraud.

> Ashoka accused Congress of wrongdoing across the country, labeling Rahul as an ineffective leader who even demands reservations for soldiers.

FIR AGAINST 11 FARMERS FOR STONE PELTING

BELAGAVI

Tension erupted during a farmers' protest at Hattargi Toll in Hukkeri taluk on Friday, where demonstrators demanding a fair support price for sugarcane allegedly pelted stones at the police. Following the incident, an FIR was filed at Yamakanamaradi Police Station against 11 individuals, based on a complaint by PSI R.V. Patil. The complaint stated that the protesters attacked police personnel with the intent to kill, injuring several officers and damaging vehicles.

ADGP Hitendra R. visited the site to review the situation and inquired about the injured officers' health at KLE Hospital. He said CCTV footage from 40–50 cameras in the area is being examined to identify and arrest the culprits swiftly. The attack reportedly left 11 policemen injured and damaged more than 10 vehicles, including government ones.

Govt to soon issue orders on sugarcane prices: CM

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday announced that the state government will soon issue an official order fixing the sugarcane price at Rs 3,300 per quintal. The announcement came after the Chief Minister paid homage to Saint Kanakadasa on his birth anniversary, Kanakadasa Jayanti, by garlanding his statue in Bengaluru.

Addressing media queries regarding claims by sugar factory owners, including BJP leader Murugesh Nirani, who stated they could pay only Rs 3,200 per quintal, CM Siddaramaiah clarified that the agreed-upon price of Rs 3,300 was accepted by all parties during meetings with stakeholders. "There is no discrepancy between announcements and action. Initially, factory owners were reluctant to pay Rs 3,200 until the Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi intervened. Following this, they agreed. The government will provide Rs 50 per quintal, and factories will contribute another Rs 50," he said.

The Chief Minister added that Minister for Sugar Shivananda Patil will soon meet sugarcane farmers to communicate the official announcement. The government is also conducting additional discussions to resolve other pending issues between sugarcane farmers and factory managements.

Speaking on Kanakadasa Jayanti, Siddaramaiah highlighted the saint's vision and devotion. "Kanakadasa was a visionary and a social reformer who spread messages of humanity, equality, and devotion through his keertanas, poetry, and writings.

Despite facing discrimination at Udupi pilgrimage, his unwavering devotion led to divine darshan," he said. The CM emphasized that the Congress-led government is committed to celebrating Kanakadasa's ideals across districts, taluks, and gram panchayats, ensuring his teachings of social equality, compassion, and devotion continue to inspire the people of Karnataka.

SC gives split verdict on ISKCON Bengaluru review petition

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has made a sensational revelation, alleging that phone numbers from Bihar, Jharkhand, and Delhi were used in voter fraud in Aland constituency, Kalaburagi. He also claimed that votes were being deleted early in the morning — a finding confirmed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Speaking at a joint press conference with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at KPCC's Bharat Jodo Bhavan, Shivakumar said that a nationwide campaign against voter fraud, called Vote Chori, is currently underway. "In Karnataka, such irregularities were first found in Mahadevapura, which Congress exposed. Now, similar incidents have surfaced in Gandhinagar and Aland," he stated.

"The SIT investigation has revealed shocking details — votes were deleted during early hours, and mobile numbers from several northern states were used to manipulate voter data," he said.

Shivakumar criticized the Election Commission for inaction. "When we seek information, the Commission asks us for proof. That's why we've decided that local body elections should be conducted only through ballot papers," he remarked.

As part of the Vote Chori awareness movement, Shivakumar said over 1.12 crore signatures have been collected across the country, including those of the Chief Minister and himself. The campaign aims to alert citizens about threats to democracy. "We will hold a massive rally at Ramlila Maidan soon," he announced, emphasizing the need for collective action to protect free and fair elections.

ISRO Uses Chandrayaan-2 Data to Study Moon's Poles

BENGALURU

ISRO on Saturday said it has collected advanced data from the Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter to gain a deeper understanding of the Moon's Polar Regions, including parameters describing the physical and dielectric properties of its surface. This is India's major value addition towards future global exploration of the Moon, it said. According to an ISRO statement, the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter has been in orbit around the Moon since 2019, providing high-quality data. One of the payloads, the Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR), is the first instrument that has mapped the Moon using the L-band in full-polarimetric mode and in the highest resolution (25m/pixel).

Op Pimple: Indian Army kills 2 terrorists in JK's Kupwara

SRINAGAR

Two unidentified terrorists were killed as the Indian Army foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday. The Army's Srinagar-based Chinar Corps said an operation was launched on Friday based on specific intelligence inputs from agencies about an infiltration attempt in Keran sector of Kupwara. Troops of the Indian Army initiated a coordinated operation in the Keran sector to intercept suspected infiltrators.

During the search, alert troops spotted suspicious activity. When challenged, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire. Under Operation Pimple, Indian forces neutralised the terrorists.

'Centre ensured farmer welfare': Joshi refutes state's claim

BENGALURU

Union Minister for Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi has written to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, objecting to the state government blaming the Centre for the sugarcane farmers' crisis. Calling it an "unjust act that misleads farmers," Joshi said the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently worked for the welfare of farmers and strengthened measures to protect both growers and sugar factories.

He noted that earlier farmers protested over delayed cane payments, but under the Modi government, arrears have been reduced to zero. For the 2022–23 and 2023–24 sugar seasons, all dues were cleared, and only about ₹50 lakh remains pending for 2024–25. Between 2014–15 and 2020–21, the Centre extended ₹16,500 crore in financial aid to sugar factories to ensure timely farmer payments.

Joshi emphasized that the Centre fixes the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane each season based on the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices' recommendations.

3 cybercriminals nabbed for duping woman

NEW DELHI

Three men were arrested for allegedly duping a woman of over Rs 3 lakh on the pretext of offering high returns through online part-time tasks, police said on Saturday.

The accused, Kuldeep Kushwaha (22) and Kuldeep Singh (23), were arrested from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, while Rahul Chaudhary (21) was arrested from Jaipur, Rajasthan. The gang's alleged kingpin, Arvind, a resident of Narnaul, Haryana, who reportedly received training in cybercrime in Malaysia, remains absconding, police said.

The victim, a resident of Burari in North Delhi, had received a message offering a lucrative part-time job. She was added to a group after she responded, where she was required to rate restaurants, hotels and companies for monetary rewards.

High turnout a '65-volt' shock to Oppn: Modi

SITAMARHI/BETTIAH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, concluding his campaign for the Bihar assembly elections in Bettiah, claimed that voters had given the opposition INDIA bloc a "65-volt jhatka" in the first phase of polling, which saw a 65.09% turnout. Confident of an NDA victory, he urged voters to break this record in the next phase on November 11 and ensure an NDA lead "in every booth."

Modi, who held 14 rallies and a roadshow across Bihar, said he began his campaign at the birthplace of Karpoori Thakur and ended it in West Champaran, the land of Mahatma Gandhi. He asserted that he would return "for the swearing-in of the new NDA government." Praising Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for ending "jungle raj," he attacked the RJD, warning that its return would mean a "katta sarkar" that ruled through fear.

Without naming them, Modi accused the RJD and Congress—"royal families"—of corruption, and mocked Rahul Gandhi as a "Congress ke naamdaar" making excuses for an impending defeat.

BALLOT BATTLE

We will launch struggle to protect democracy: CM

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused the BJP-led Union government of undermining constitutional institutions and bringing agencies like the Election Commission and CBI under its control. Speaking at a joint press conference with Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar announced that 1, 12, 40,000 signatures have been collected across Karnataka as part of the Congress-led nationwide campaign against alleged "vote theft."

"The BJP is unmatched not only in lying but also in voter fraud. We will not tolerate this and will fight to protect democracy and constitutional values," Siddaramaiah said, alleging that the BJP gained power in several elections through voter manipulation.

He noted that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had exposed evidence of voter fraud in the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency, but the Election Commission had failed to respond. Calling such acts unconstitutional and a betrayal of democracy, the Chief Minister stressed that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had envisioned the Election Commission as an independent body, free from government interference, to ensure transparent elections.

QUICK READ

2 with links to Khalistan Liberation Force arrested

CHANDIGARH

Two Amritsar residents were arrested on Saturday for their alleged association with the terrorist organisation Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Punjab police said.

According to police, preliminary probe revealed that they were "acting on the directions of their foreign handlers" and had procured illegal weapons from across the border to carry out criminal activities in Punjab. A foreign-made .30 calibre PX5 pistol, a .30 calibre pistol, a foreign-made .45 calibre pistol, one .32 calibre pistol and one revolver.

ED attaches ₹67 cr assets in PFI money-laundering case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has issued a fresh attachment order to freeze assets worth Rs 67 crore as part of its money-laundering probe against banned terrorist organisation Popular Front of India (PFI).

The federal probe agency, in a statement, said these properties were "beneficially owned and controlled" by the PFI and held in the name of various trusts, apart from that of its political front -- Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI).

Man killed in elephant attack

KORBA

A 36-year-old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, a forest official said on Saturday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday at Botli village under Kartala forest range, Korba Divisional Forest Officer Premlata Yadav said. A tusker attacked Shivnarayan Rathia and crushed him, killing him on the spot, she said.

Bengaluru to Celebrate 12th Annual Drivers' Day on Nov 9

Thousands of auto drivers to gather in Bengaluru on November 9 to celebrate Shankar Nag's legacy with grand festivities.

BENGALURU

The 12th Annual Drivers' Day Celebration will be held on November 9 at Shalini Grounds, Jayanagar 5th Block, in honour of the late Kannada icon Shankar Nag. Organized jointly by several auto and taxi drivers' unions, the event will pay tribute to Shankar Nag's enduring influence on the city's transport community. His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Math will grace the occasion.

Addressing reporters at the Bengaluru Press Club, Raghu N. Narayan Gowda, President of Peace Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union, announced that Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Transport Commissioner A.M. Yogesh, and Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Dr. M.A. Saleem will attend the celebration. Popular actress Rachita Ram has been appointed as the Auto Ambassador for this year's event, in recognition of her strong connection with the people.

The event is expected to draw over 4,000 participants. Seven drivers—including senior, honest, and women drivers—will be honoured with gold medals for their exemplary service. Actor Ajay Rao will also extend financial aid to two deserving drivers during the function.

Calling Shankar Nag's birthday a festival for drivers, M. Manjunath Gowda, President of Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union, urged the Government of Karnataka to officially declare November 9 as Drivers' Day. He emphasized that drivers form the backbone of urban mobility and deserve state recognition.

Raghavendra Poojari H.S., Program Lead at B.PAC, announced a special tribute titled Vishnu Namana to honour late actor Dr. Vishnuvardhan, who was recently posthumously awarded the Karnataka Ratna. Adding to the excitement, organizers unveiled a Hampi Chariot Auto, decorated with portraits of Shankar Nag and Dr. Vishnuvardhan, symbolizing unity, pride, and respect among Bengaluru's driver community.

Lokayukta Raids RTOs in City, Uncovers Irregularities

BENGALURU

A major crackdown by the Karnataka Lokayukta exposed rampant corruption and mismanagement across six Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) in the city. Teams led by Lokayukta Justice B.S. Patil and Upa Lokayuktas Justices K.N. Phaneendra and B. Veerappa conducted surprise inspections at RTOs located in Yeshwanthpur, Rajajinagar, Jayanagar, Yelahanka, Kasturi Nagar, and K.R. Puram.

At the Kasturi Nagar RTO, Justice B. Veerappa and his team discovered 49 Registration Certificates (RCs) and 83 Driving Licenses (DLs) at a private shop—Maruthi Motors Pvt. Ltd., owned by one Rajanikantha—situated opposite the RTO office. Many of these documents bore handwritten notes indicating payments of Rs 1,500 to Rs 5,000, and some were marked with right marks, suggesting potential kickbacks. The Upa Lokayukta termed this a serious offence, directing the Deputy Superintendent of Police (Lokayukta) to file criminal cases against the RTO, ARTO, Superintendent, and Rajanikantha.

Surprise inspections by Lokayukta officials across six Bengaluru RTOs expose large-scale corruption, missing records, and violations of administrative procedures.

During the inspections, officials also found severe lapses in record maintenance. RTO G.P. Krishnananda failed to provide data on the number of registered vehicles, stage carriers, and GPS-enabled mineral transport vehicles. He further revealed that fitness certificates for 37 out of 702 school vehicles had expired, but could not produce corresponding notices.

In K.R. Puram, RTO Umesh disclosed that 1.52 lakh vehicles lacked valid fitness certificates. Following the raid, all RTO staff reportedly deleted their PhonePe and Google Pay accounts, raising suspicion of illicit transactions. The Upa Lokayukta has ordered them to submit comparative statements of salaries, bank accounts, and liabilities.

Inspectors also observed staff members violating dress codes and neglecting duties—several were absent or failed to distribute pending Driving and Learning Licenses. The Lokayukta has sought detailed reports from all six RTOs and directed strict disciplinary action against erring officials.

QUICK READ

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Slams Poor Cleanliness Outside Metro Stations

Bengaluru

Biocon founder and noted entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has voiced strong concern over the poor state of cleanliness around Bengaluru's metro stations, highlighting the stark contrast between the well-maintained interiors and the neglected surroundings outside. In a post shared on social media, Shaw drew public and government attention to the issue by uploading a video showing the area outside the Malleswaram Metro Station littered with garbage and debris. The clip, which quickly gained traction online, clearly depicts the entrance of the metro surrounded by waste, despite the spotless interiors maintained by the metro authorities.

India's first inter-state Vande Bharat from Kerala connects Ernakulam to Bengaluru, reducing travel time and boosting regional connectivity

PM Modi Launches Ernakulam–Bengaluru Vande Bharat

BENGALURU

The newly launched Ernakulam–KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, marks a significant milestone in Southern India's rail connectivity. According to Southern Railway, it is the first inter-state semi-high-speed premium train service linking Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka—three of the region's most economically vibrant states.

The eight-coach train will traverse major cities including Thrissur, Palakkad, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, and Salem before reaching Krishnarajapuram and KSR Bengaluru. This new route is expected to provide a substantial boost to business, tourism, education, and healthcare sectors across the three states. Officials noted that the train's faster travel time and superior comfort will attract both business travelers and tourists.

Currently, the intercity train between Ernakulam and Bengaluru takes over 11 hours to cover the 583-kilometre stretch. The new Vande Bharat service will complete the same distance in just 8 hours and 40 minutes. Regular operations will begin on November 9, 2025, with the train departing Bengaluru at 5:10 a.m. and reaching Ernakulam by 1:50 p.m. The return journey from Ernakulam will begin at 2:20 p.m., arriving in Bengaluru by 11:00 p.m. The service will run six days a week, except on Wednesdays.

Southern Railway highlighted that this is the third Vande Bharat originating from Kerala and the first to serve Palakkad, known as the Gateway of Kerala. It will ensure faster and more reliable connectivity between Ernakulam, Kerala's commercial hub, and Bengaluru, the technology capital of India. Equipped with modern features such as GPS-based infotainment, bio-vacuum toilets, ergonomic seating, automatic doors, reading lights, and Wi-Fi, the Vande Bharat Express promises a comfortable and premium travel experience.The Railway Ministry stated that with over 164 Vande Bharat trains now operating nationwide, these services continue to bridge economic, social, and cultural barriers across India.

Toddler Killed After Wall Collapse Triggered by Lorry Accident

BENGALURU

In a heartbreaking incident, a one-year-eight-month-old boy named Pranav lost his life in a tragic road accident at Kundalahalli Colony in Mahadevapura on Saturday. The incident occurred around 4 p.m. on November 7, when a cement mixer lorry struck an electric wire, causing a chain reaction that led to the collapse of a nearby wall. According to police sources, the cement mixer lorry was returning from moulding work at a newly constructed house when it accidentally came into contact with an overhead electric wire. The driver, who failed to notice the wire, continued driving, which resulted in the electric pole being uprooted. The force of the impact caused the wall of an adjacent house to collapse.

At that moment, Pranav was playing in the compound of his home, unaware of the impending danger. The falling debris struck him, leaving him critically injured. Family members and neighbours immediately rushed to rescue the child and tried to take him to a nearby hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries en route. The lorry driver fled the scene with the vehicle immediately after the incident. A case has been registered at the HAL Police Station, and the police have begun a detailed investigation. Search operations are underway to trace the absconding driver. Pranav was the only child of Siddappa and Lavanya, who are devastated by the sudden loss. The grieving mother, Lavanya, was inconsolable as the child's body was shifted to Bowring Hospital mortuary for post-mortem.

This tragic accident has once again raised concerns over reckless driving and the lack of safety regulations in residential neighbourhoods, where heavy vehicles often ply without proper supervision.

Fake Bomb Threat Emails Sent to Schools Takes a Shocking Turn During Interrogation

BENGALURU

In a startling revelation, police interrogation of Renee Joshilda, the prime accused in the recent case involving fake bomb threat emails sent to schools and colleges across Bengaluru, has uncovered a bizarre motive rooted in revenge and misguided love.

According to investigators, Renee, who was reportedly upset over her boyfriend Divij's recent engagement, allegedly resorted to extreme measures after an astrologer advised her to tarnish the boy's name to break his engagement. Police sources said Renee had consulted the astrologer in a desperate attempt to find a way to marry Divij, but was told their horoscopes did not match. When she pressed for a solution, the astrologer allegedly suggested defaming him to ruin his relationship — advice that set off a chain of destructive actions.

Following this, Renee reportedly tried to defame Divij by spreading false allegations, accusing him of being a womanizer and a rapist. When her attempts failed, she went a step further — using Divij's email ID and a VPN to send fake bomb threat emails to several educational institutions, attempting to implicate him in a criminal act.

Police said Divij was completely unaware of Renee's obsession or the false accusations made in his name. Investigations revealed that Renee and Divij had first met at a company conference in Hyderabad, where they became part of a WhatsApp group with another colleague named Chetan. Over time, Renee developed strong feelings for Divij, but her affection turned into anger when he announced his engagement.

Renee has been arrested and booked under multiple sections of the law for criminal intimidation, cybercrime, and public endangerment. Authorities are now probing the astrologer's role in the case as well.

State Govt Employees to Receive 2026 Calendar

BENGALURU

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association has announced that it will distribute 2026 calendars to every state government employee and teacher across Karnataka. This move marks a historic milestone, as no other state in India has undertaken such a large-scale gesture for its government workforce.

Sharing the details, C.S. Shadakshari, the State President of the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association, said that the association has taken this unique step to recognize and appreciate the contributions of all government staff members. This is the first time in the history of our nation that every government employee and teacher will receive a calendar distributed by a state employees' association, he stated.

The association has drawn up a well-organized plan to ensure that the calendars reach every employee across the state. According to Shadakshari, district and taluk-level association presidents and office-bearers will personally oversee the distribution process and ensure timely delivery to employees at their respective workplaces.

This thoughtful initiative by the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association not only aims to promote unity and recognition among government workers but also highlights the organization's commitment to maintaining a strong connection with its members across various departments and regions.

The announcement has been widely appreciated among government employees, many of whom see it as a symbolic gesture of solidarity and respect for their service to the state.

JANUARY
2026
"What you do today can improve all your tomorrows." — Ralph Marston

Road Collapses in Vyalikaval Just 2 Days Before GBA's Pothole Deadline

BENGALURU

With only 48 hours remaining before the deadline set by the GBA commissioner to fix all potholes across Bengaluru, yet another alarming incident has shaken public confidence in the city's road infrastructure.

A portion of the road at Vyalikaval suddenly collapsed, creating a massive pothole and triggering panic among motorists and local residents. The incident comes at a critical time, as the GBA had earlier announced that all potholes in the city would be repaired by November 10. Ironically, just as officials were racing to meet this deadline, the road collapse has exposed the fragile condition of Bengaluru's roads and raised serious questions about the quality of civic works.

BENGALURU JAIL SCANDAL

Viral Videos Expose Security Lapses at Parappana Agrahara

BENGALURU

Shocking revelations have emerged from the Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in Bengaluru after a series of viral videos allegedly showed high-profile inmates including convicted rapist and serial killer Umesh Reddy, suspected terrorists, and a gold smuggling accused — using mobile phones and enjoying special privileges behind bars.

The footage has triggered widespread outrage and raised serious concerns over systemic corruption and lax security within one of the state's most secure prisons.

Responding to the controversy, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that he was unaware of the incident but promised to look into the matter and take appropriate action. No one, regardless of their crime or status, will be allowed to misuse the law, he assured.

According to reports, the videos show Umesh Reddy — convicted of raping 20 women and murdering 18 between 1996 and 2022 — using two Android smartphones and a keypad phone inside his cell.

His death sentence was commuted by the Supreme Court to 30 years' imprisonment without remission in 2022. Despite claiming mental illness in a clemency plea, medical examinations at NIMHANS confirmed he was mentally fit.

Adding to the scandal, sources allege that Telugu actor Tarun Raju, arrested in connection with the Ranya Rao gold smuggling case, is leading a bindaas lifestyle with access to a mobile phone and television. Tarun, who starred in the 2018 Telugu film Parichayam, was caught while allegedly attempting to flee to Geneva. Investigators have identified him as the mastermind behind a smuggling network supplying gold to Ranya Rao, daughter of a senior IPS officer accused of aiding the operation.

Even more alarming are claims that members of extremist groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba suspects, were seen using smartphones inside the prison — a breach that poses potential national security risks. Senior officials have called for an immediate high-level probe into the shocking lapses at Parappana Agrahara.

QUICK READ

Public Urged to Report on Obscene Videos

Bengaluru

Authorities have urged citizens not to panic if obscene photos or videos of them surface or go viral on social media. Instead, victims are advised to immediately approach the nearest police station and file a formal complaint, or contact the national cybercrime helpline at 1930 for assistance. In an effort to curb the spread of explicit or non-consensual intimate content online, officials have also recommended using the international reporting platform www.stopncii.org. The website enables individuals to report and request the blocking or removal of such content from social media platforms before it spreads further.

K'taka HC Dismisses Petitions by B'luru Waste Contractors

Justice Suraj Govindaraj directs creation of a unified digital system to ensure transparency and accountability in Bengaluru's waste management.

BENGALURU

In a significant move toward reforming the city's waste management system, the Karnataka High Court has dismissed multiple writ petitions filed by solid waste management contractors challenging the tender issued for 33 solid waste disposal packages across Bengaluru.

A single-judge bench of Justice Suraj Govindaraj ruled that the existing garbage disposal system was outdated and required a transparent, accountable, and technology-driven approach. The bench directed the five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to develop a unified and integrated digital platform for solid waste management and implement it in a phased manner.

A meeting should be convened with the GBA Chief Commissioner, Commissioners of the five Municipal Corporations, and the Secretary of the e-Governance Department to devise this new system, the bench stated. It emphasized that governance for waste management should follow the principle of one city, one platform, ensuring seamless coordination among citizens, contractors, and administrators.

The court suggested several digital reforms, including the use of a digital dashboard, mobile applications, GPS tracking, weighbridge integration, and CCTV surveillance. These systems, the court said, should function as interconnected elements within a unified administrative structure rather than as separate initiatives.

Further, the bench recommended setting up a citizen participation mechanism where residents could report garbage disposal black spots through the proposed app. Evidence collected through CCTV footage would help impose fines on violators under the enforcement model of the new digital platform.

The High Court's order marks a crucial step toward establishing a data-driven, transparent, and citizen-inclusive waste management system in Bengaluru, expected to enhance efficiency and curb corruption in garbage disposal operations.

JDS Leaders Celebrate Kanaka Jayanti, Pay Tribute to Saint-Poet Kanakadasa

BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) city unit celebrated Kanaka Jayanti at the party's state office in Bengaluru on Friday, paying rich tributes to Dasa Shrestha Kanakadasa, the revered saint-poet, philosopher, and social reformer who dedicated his life to promoting equality and harmony through his works. Speaking on the occasion, H.M. Ramesh Gowda, President of the JDS Bengaluru City Unit and former MLA, said that Kanakadasa was among the greatest reformers in Karnataka's history. "He worked tirelessly through his writings and teachings to build a just and equal society. His question — 'Why fight over caste? Do you even know the foundation of your caste?' — reflects his timeless message of social unity," Ramesh Gowda noted.

2-Day National Vice Chancellors' Conclave in Bemgaluru

BENGALURU

A major decision on integrating cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence, into India's educational framework was taken at the National Vice Chancellors' Conclave held at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE) campus, Mysore Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru.

Speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day conclave, Dr. Vinay Joshi, Academic Dean and Conclave Convenor, said that extensive discussions were held on key transformations taking place in the education sector. Experts provided deep insights into technological advancements, which will help shape future curricula, he added.

Dr. Rohit Singh, Director, AIMA, stated that the primary goal of the conclave was to ensure excellence in education. He emphasized that this event would lay the foundation for the education system of the future and stressed the importance of continuous collaboration in advancing the framework of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS).

Dr. Koti Reddy, Vice Chancellor, IFHE Hyderabad, and Dr. S. Vijayalakshmi, Registrar, IFHE Hyderabad, appreciated the efforts of IFHE Bengaluru for successfully organizing the conclave. Dr. Muddu Vinay, Pro Vice Chancellor, IFHE Bengaluru; Ms. Sowmya Singh, Deputy Director, Vice Chancellors' Conclave; and Dr. Manisha Singh, Deputy Director – Corporate Relations, IFHE Bengaluru, were among the dignitaries present.

MAHE Open House 3.0: From Legacy to the Frontiers of Futuristic Learning

BENGALURU

The Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Bengaluru, came alive with energy, colour, and curiosity as it hosted the third edition of its flagship event, Open House 3.0, at the Yelahanka campus. The day-long event reimagined the university space as a living, breathing roadmap to the future, where classrooms turned into labs of discovery and corridors echoed with creativity and collaboration.

This edition of Open House recorded a remarkable turnout, including both students & parents. It went beyond an institutional showcase; it was an invitation to experience the future of learning. From interactive workshops and live demonstrations to student performances and thought-provoking showcases, every corner of the campus told a story of innovation and community.

Reflecting on the success of the event, Dr. Madhu Veeraraghavan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, MAHE Bengaluru, said: The enthusiasm and engagement we witnessed today reaffirms MAHE's commitment to deliver transformative education that prepares students for tomorrow's challenges. Education today is not about transferring knowledge. It's about transforming curiosity into capability. Open House 3.0 is where that transformation becomes visible. You can see it in how our students engage, how ideas come alive, and how learning extends beyond the classroom.

The leadership address held in the afternoon drew wide attention as Prof. (Dr.) Madhu Veeraraghavan, along with the senior leadership team, shared insights on MAHE Bengaluru's vision for future-ready education and its evolving placement ecosystem. Their discussion underscored how the university is aligning academic excellence with industry relevance, preparing students not just for their first jobs, but for meaningful, long-term careers in a rapidly changing world.

The buzz began at T. A. Pai Management Institute (TAPMI-BLR), where visitors stepped into spaces that blurred the lines between classroom and boardroom. Inside the Family Business League, students and parents worked shoulder-to-shoulder, tackling real-world business challenges in a charged atmosphere of collaboration and creativity. Just next door, the TAPMI Student Museum offered quieter reflection, an inspiring gallery of student projects and internship stories that captured the institute's ethos of learning by doing. Together, these experiences illustrated TAPMI's belief that leadership is not taught in theory but lived through action and engagement.

GBA Chief Commissioner Directs Officials to Expedite Pothole Repairs

BENGALURU

In a move to ensure safer and smoother travel for city commuters, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao conducted a virtual meeting with senior officials and instructed them to expedite the process of filling potholes across Bengaluru.

During the meeting, Rao emphasized the urgent need to address road safety concerns caused by potholes, especially with increased vehicle movement and recent rainfall affecting several areas. He directed officials to identify and repair all damaged road stretches within a fixed timeframe, ensuring quality and durability of the repair work.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao held a virtual meeting directing officials to urgently complete pothole repairs across Bengaluru roads.

The meeting was attended by GBA Commissioners Rajendra Cholan, Pommal Sunil Kumar, K.N. Ramesh, and Dr. Rajendra K.V., along with Additional Commissioners R. Latha, Daljit Kumar, and Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar. Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers, and other key technical staff were also present.

Rao stressed the importance of coordinated efforts between the GBA, BBMP zones, and engineering teams to avoid delays in maintenance work. He instructed that daily progress reports be submitted to the central monitoring unit and that advanced road maintenance technology be used to ensure long-lasting results.

Officials were also told to give priority to main roads, school routes, and hospital access roads, where potholes often cause traffic congestion and accidents.

The Chief Commissioner warned that negligence in implementing the directives would lead to strict action against the responsible officers.

The meeting concluded with a call for collective responsibility and timely execution, reaffirming the GBA's commitment to improving Bengaluru's road infrastructure and ensuring commuter safety.

Bommai Urges CM to Use SAP Law to Ensure Fair Sugarcane Prices

BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai has urged the Karnataka government to invoke the State Advisory Price (SAP) provisions to ensure fair remuneration for sugarcane farmers. He stated that the BJP government, during its tenure, had enacted the SAP law empowering the state to independently decide sugarcane prices based on various production factors.

In a post on social media platform X, Bommai said that under the SAP law, the state government has complete authority to fix sugarcane prices by considering factors such as cultivation costs, sugar production expenses, by-product revenues, and market prices. He lamented that the current Congress government has not utilized these powers so far. If the Chief Minister exercises this authority, it will bring justice to farmers and lead to a fair and lasting solution to the ongoing sugarcane crisis, he remarked.

Bommai also commended the Belagavi Deputy Commissioner, who recently held discussions with sugar mill owners and managed to raise the price of sugarcane from ₹2,900 to ₹3,200 per tonne, gaining appreciation from local farmers. He, however, expressed concern that despite Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's day-long meeting with stakeholders, the proposed additional ₹50 hike per tonne was accepted by only some mill owners. If an officer can achieve such progress, but the Chief Minister cannot, it raises questions about the credibility of his leadership, Bommai observed.

While terming the government's move to grant a ₹50 increase as a positive step, Bommai reminded that he had earlier urged the Chief Minister to intervene in power purchase agreements for electricity generated by sugar mills at ₹5.5 per unit.

Police in Bengaluru have registered an FIR against an Instagram user for circulating an AI-generated video involving CM and DCM

FIR Filed Over AI-Generated Fake Video Showing DK Shivakumar Pushing CM

BENGALURU

An FIR has been registered against an Instagram user for allegedly creating and circulating a fake video, generated using artificial intelligence (AI), that falsely depicted Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar pushing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, police said on Saturday.

The incident came to light after advocate Deepu C.R. filed a complaint, stating that he had come across the video on an Instagram account named 'Kannada Chitraranga'. The doctored video, designed to resemble a television news broadcast, was being widely shared on social media as breaking news.

According to the complaint, the video had been edited using AI tools to falsely portray Shivakumar pushing Siddaramaiah during a meeting. It was circulated with misleading captions such as Shivakumar pushed CM Siddaramaiah and the latter fell, and Enraged DKS pushed CM.

The complainant alleged that the fake video was deliberately created and shared to malign the reputations of both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, and to foster a negative perception among the public.

He further warned that such misleading content could disturb public order and tarnish the image of the Karnataka government.

Acting on the complaint, the Sadashivanagar Police registered an FIR under Sections 192 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 336(4) (forgery), and 353 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Police officials confirmed that an investigation is currently underway to trace the individual responsible for creating and uploading the AI-generated video. Authorities have also urged citizens to verify the authenticity of such online content before sharing it on social media platforms.

CLEANSE-BEAUTIFY-BENGALURU

North City Corporation Conducts Mass Cleanliness Drive

BENGALURU

In a concerted effort to promote urban cleanliness and greenery, the Horticulture Department of the Bengaluru North City Corporation carried out a mass cleanliness drive across parks and medians in all Assembly Constituency areas under its jurisdiction. The initiative aimed to further beautify public spaces, improve civic hygiene, and create a cleaner, healthier, and more pleasant environment for residents.

As part of the drive, workers and volunteers participated in clearing debris, removing weeds, trimming overgrown plants, and cleaning park pathways. The campaign also included the repainting of benches, maintenance of fountains, and replanting of flower beds to enhance the city's aesthetic appeal.

Officials from the Horticulture Department said the initiative was part of the Corporation's ongoing efforts to sustain Bengaluru's green cover while maintaining public spaces for community well-being. Our goal is to ensure that every park within the Bengaluru North limits is clean, green, and inviting for citizens, an official stated.

Local residents, civic volunteers, and environmental groups also extended their support, acknowledging the Corporation's proactive approach to maintaining parks and open spaces. Many appreciated that such drives not only improved the city's appearance but also encouraged public participation in keeping Bengaluru clean.

Authorities emphasized that regular monitoring and maintenance will continue to prevent littering and ensure long-term sustainability.

The Horticulture Department plans to conduct similar cleanliness and beautification activities across other zones, aligning with the city's broader Clean and Green Bengaluru mission.

QUICK READ

Lone elephant calmly walks through Belur village

BELUR

A lone wild elephant created a gentle spectacle in Bikkodu village of Belur taluk as it calmly walked among vehicles and people without causing any harm, behaving like a trained elephant. Forest Department's Elephant Task Force (ETF) escorted the tusker through the village, making announcements on loudspeakers to alert residents. Despite the crowd, the elephant remained composed, walking gracefully through the streets. At one point, it lifted its trunk, seemingly posing for onlookers before heading back toward the forest.

Woman dies of electrocution while fishing

CHIKKABALLAPUR

In a tragic incident near Diguvenettakuntapalli village of Chelur taluk, a 54-year-old woman named Ashabi died after being electrocuted while fishing in a lake. Ashabi and her husband, Mabusaab, earned their living through fishing. On the night of the incident, the couple had gone to the lake to collect fish caught earlier in the day. While navigating the lake on a coracle, Ashabi accidentally came in contact with a live electric wire that had fallen into the water from a damaged pole. She received a fatal electric shock and fell into the lake.

Teachings of Kanakadasa remain relevant even today: Min Sudhakar

Minister D. Sudhakar emphasized the enduring relevance of Saint Kanakadasa's teachings on equality and devotion at the Kanakadasa Jayanti celebration

CHITRADURGA

Minister for Planning and Statistics and District In-Charge D. Sudhakar said that the ideals of Saint Kanakadasa continue to hold great relevance in today's society. His teachings on social equality, morality, pluralism, and devotion serve as a guiding light for humanity, he noted.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Kanakadasa Jayanti celebration organized jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, and the City Municipal Council at Kanaka Circle on Holalkere Road. Sudhakar highlighted that Kanakadasa, like Purandara Dasa, was not just a poet but also a reformer, philosopher, and champion of human values. His works—Haribhaktisara, Mohanatarangini, Ramadhanyacharitre, and Nalacharitre—reflect devotion, ethics, and equality. Through his songs, he conveyed that true spirituality lies in fraternity and compassion beyond caste barriers. His simple, musical, and philosophical verses have immortalized him as a timeless saint-poet, the minister added.

MP Govind Karjol said such commemorations must transcend community boundaries and inspire education and unity among the underprivileged.

Prof. G. Prashanth Nayak from Kuvempu University urged that Jayanti celebrations should encourage self-reflection and inspire people to follow the paths shown by great saints like Kanakadasa.

On this occasion, the District Kuruba Sangha submitted a memorandum seeking land for educational and community purposes. A colorful procession, cultural performances, and the Kanakashree Sevaratna awards marked the event, honoring individuals for excellence in various fields. District officials and community leaders attended the program.

Kanaka is not just a person, but a living tradition: K.V. Prabhakar

KOLAR

Chief Minister's Media Advisor K.V. Prabhakar said that Saint Kanakadasa should not be seen merely as a great devotee, but as the embodiment of an enduring spiritual and cultural tradition. He was speaking after inaugurating the Kanakadas Jayanti celebration organized by the Kuruba Sangha in Kolar.

Prabhakar emphasized that when we remember Kanaka, we also recall Buddha and Basava — symbolizing a lineage of enlightenment. Kanaka Jayanti, he said, should inspire society to reconnect with the deep roots of its moral and spiritual heritage.

He explained that the Kuruba community, to which Kanakadasa belonged, played a vital role in ancient India's agrarian and pastoral economy, when wealth was measured by cattle and sheep rather than coins. He lauded Chief Minister Siddaramaiah — himself from the Kuruba tradition — for continuing this legacy of leadership by presenting 16 state budgets, a record achievement.

Prabhakar noted that tolerance and secularism are integral to this heritage. Through his songs like "Tallanisadiru Taalu Manave", Kanakadasa expressed a message of harmony among Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity. Historical links between the Kuruba way of life and these faiths, he said, show that inter-community respect runs deep in their culture.

He concluded by urging people to celebrate Kanaka Jayanti by rediscovering the depth and breadth of their heritage — a tradition rooted in compassion, equality, and harmony.

Art promotes emotional harmony in society: Guv

MYSURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot said art and music foster emotional balance, compassion, and unity. He urged young artists to dedicate their talents to public

"Music has the power to calm the conflicts of the mind, transform violence into compassion, and unite humanity," said Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot. He was presiding over the 10th Convocation of the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal University of Music and Performing Arts, Mysuru.

The Governor said that the purpose of art extends beyond performance. "Art promotes emotional balance and social harmony. Music and art hold an exalted position in Indian culture. Our Vedas declare 'Nadosmi Param Brahma' — Sound is the Supreme Soul. This divine sound awakens compassion, beauty and love within the human spirit."

He noted that in today's age of rapid digital and technological transformation, artists serve as bridges of empathy and cultural communication. "As India moves toward becoming a developed nation, the role of creative youth is significant. Students should dedicate their art to public welfare and nation-building. Art acquires true meaning only when it serves humanity."

Referring to the legacy of the University, the Governor said, "This institution is named after the legendary Hindustani classical vocalist Dr. Gangubai Hangal, who played a pioneering role in giving new identity to Khayal singing in independent India. Her life and work continue to inspire generations.

This University stands as a beacon for the preservation and promotion of India's rich musical heritage." He urged students to uphold discipline, sensitivity and dedication. "Technology is only a tool — not the soul of music.

The true essence of your art lies in your practice, your values and your devotion. Let your art strengthen the cultural unity of the nation."During the convocation, Honorary Doctorates were conferred upon Hon'ble Shri Janardhana, Prof. B.R. Seshadri Iyengar and Shri G.M. Sivaprasad for their outstanding contributions to society. The Governor congratulated them and expressed hope that they would continue to work for public welfare and national progress.

The ceremony was attended by Prof. B. Ananthakrishnan, Chancellor of Kalamandala University, Kerala, Prof. Nagesh V. Bettakote, Vice-Chancellor of the University, faculty members, students and dignitaries.

Kanakadasa's ideals should guide our lives: MLA Hitnal

KOPPAL

On the occasion of Saint Kanakadasa Jayanti, MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal urged people to follow Kanakadasa's principles in their lives instead of limiting the celebration to processions and rituals. He was speaking at the district-level Kanakadasa Jayanti programme jointly organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, and Koppal City Municipality at Sahitya Bhavan.

He said that Kanakadasa, through his devotional songs, fought against caste and religious divisions, promoting equality and unity.

Leaders like Basavanna, Ambedkar, and Kanakadasa worked tirelessly for social justice and the upliftment of all communities.

Hitnal praised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for continuing this legacy by implementing welfare programmes that ensure equality across society. MP K. Rajasekhar Basavaraj Hitnal said Kanakadasa sacrificed his wealth and status to dedicate his life to social reform. His devotion and teachings, emphasizing morality over caste, continue to inspire generations.

MLC Hemalatha Nayak noted that Kanakadasa's literary works such as Haribhaktisara and Mohanatarangini enriched Kannada literature and promoted universal human values.

She stressed that celebrating great saints should transcend caste and religion.

The event featured a vibrant procession with traditional performances, followed by a prize distribution ceremony for students who won essay competitions. Several dignitaries, including officials, community leaders, and representatives, attended the celebration, reaffirming Kanakadasa's message of equality and harmony.

Children's theatre festival in Kolar today

KOLAR

The Rangakahale organization, in collaboration with the Central Government, will host a Children's Theatre Festival at T. Channayya Rangamandira in Kolar on November 9 from 10 a.m. onwards, announced District Vokkaliga Association President and advocate K.V. Shankarappa.

Addressing a press conference at the Journalists' Bhavan, Shankarappa said that Rangakahale has been actively promoting children's theatre for the past 49 years through continuous innovation and performances.

The institution's plays have earned recognition with several state and national awards. "This festival aims to nurture creativity, artistic interest, and knowledge among children," he added.

Rangakahale's director Ohilesh Lakshman said that a full-day lineup of performances has been planned, and entry will be free for the public. The event will feature a documentary on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, along with Bharatanatyam, folk songs, group dances, and stage plays such as Kindari Jogi and Nanna Gopala. He urged residents to attend in large numbers and encourage young artists. The festival will be inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner M.R. Ravi, marking a vibrant celebration of children's theatre and culture in Kolar.

KUWJ Chitradurga district election today from 9 am to 3 pm

CHITRADURGA

The election for the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) Chitradurga District Committee for the 2025–28 term will be held on Sunday, November 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., announced District Election Officer Chikkappanahalli Shanmukha. Voting will take place at the association's press building behind the Deputy Commissioner's office in Chitradurga. A total of 39 candidates are contesting for various positions, including vice presidents, general secretary, secretaries, treasurer, state committee member, and 15 executive committee posts. Members must mark an 'X' against the chosen candidate's name. Voters' left index finger will be marked with indelible ink after casting their vote.

Candidates and voters have been instructed to follow strict election rules. Members must bring their 2025–26 ID card and mention both their 2024–25 and 2025–26 membership details on the ballot paper. Agents must identify and verify each voter before issuing the ballot paper.

Mobile phones, photography, and video recording are strictly prohibited inside the polling and counting centers. Any violation could lead to cancellation of votes or legal action. Counting will begin at 3:30 p.m., and results will be declared the same evening, followed by certificate distribution to the winners.

Twelve injured in lorry–tempo traveller collision near Hanur

HANUR

A major road accident occurred on the Mahadeshwara Betta main road between Ellemala and Mallayyanapura in Hanur taluk on Saturday, leaving at least twelve people injured. According to reports, residents of Electronic City, Bengaluru, were returning home after offering prayers at the Mahadeshwara temple when their Tempo Traveller collided head-on with a cement-laden lorry heading towards Kaudally near Ellemala–Mallayyanapura.

The impact of the collision left the Tempo Traveller severely damaged. The driver, Eknath, sustained serious injuries, while eleven others suffered minor wounds. Local residents acted swiftly, rushing the injured to a private hospital in Kollegala for immediate medical attention.

The mishap also caused a temporary traffic jam on the busy stretch.

The Ramapura police arrived promptly, cleared the vehicles involved, and restored smooth traffic flow. Police sources said a detailed investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident. Preliminary reports suggest that overspeeding or poor visibility could have contributed to the crash. Authorities have urged motorists to drive cautiously.

New office bearers elected for KUWJ

SHIVAMOGGA

The Karnataka Union of Working Journalists' Association (KUWJ), Shivamogga district branch, has elected new office bearers unanimously. Senior journalist and Namma Naadu reporter H. U. Vaidyanath (Vaidya) has been chosen as the district president. R. S. Halaswamy, reporter for Doordarshan Chandana, has been elected as the general secretary, while Namma Naadu editor K. V. Shivakumar has been selected as the state committee director.

For the district committee director post, only one nomination was filed—by Raja Rao M. Jadhav of Namma Kannada Naadu newspaper, Shikaripura—leading to his unopposed election. The results were officially announced by election officer Srinivas. The new team aims to strengthen the association's role in safeguarding journalists' rights and promoting ethical journalism.

CATTLE LAW DISPUTE

Complaint over police's cattle law drive in mosques

MANGALURU

CPI(M) Dakshina Kannada district secretary Muneer Katipalla has filed a complaint with the Western Range IGP, alleging that police officials in the district violated constitutional principles by conducting awareness programs on the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act inside mosques.

According to the complaint, police in Dharmasthala visited the Kokkada mosque and issued warnings under the guise of awareness. Similar programs were reportedly held in several mosques in Sullia taluk, including Sullia Central Juma Mosque, Mogarpane, Dugaladka, Sunnamule, Kumbakkodu, and Arantodu. Worshippers were allegedly stopped and cautioned that their houses would be seized if they violated the law.

Katipalla termed this action discriminatory, claiming it unfairly targeted the Muslim community and portrayed it as the only group violating the cow slaughter law. He compared it to the colonial-era classification of certain tribes as "criminal tribes," suggesting that such actions criminalize an entire community.

He further pointed out several earlier cattle theft and illegal transport cases in which the accused were from other communities, questioning why police never held awareness drives in their religious places. Citing Articles 25 and 26 of the Indian Constitution, the complaint argued that religious institutions have the autonomy to conduct their affairs without interference. Conducting awareness drives on sensitive issues like cow slaughter within places of worship, it said, violates the secular spirit of the state.

Katipalla urged legal action against the police personnel involved and those who authorized the campaign, asserting that such activities amount to misuse of power and discrimination under the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.

QUICK READ

Teen drowns after accidentally falling into lake

BHATKAL

A tragic incident occurred on Saturday afternoon when a 15-year-old boy accidentally drowned in a lake near Jamboor Math in Asarakeri, Bhatkal taluk. The deceased has been identified as Shashidhar Yogesh Moger. According to initial reports, Shashidhar had returned home from school and later went to the lake with friends to catch fish. He reportedly slipped and fell into the water, leading to his death. His brother, Balaji Yogesh Moger, filed a complaint at the Bhatkal Town Police Station, stating the incident was purely accidental. DySP Mahesh K. and police personnel visited the spot and conducted an inspection. The body was later shifted to Bhatkal Government Hospital for post-mortem.

Adalat held for quick clearance of layout plan applications

SULLIA

Under the guidance of SUDA Chairman K.M. Mustafa, an adalat-style review was held at the Sullia Urban Development Authority (SUDA) to expedite the approval of layout plans under Sections 9 and 11, along with single-site design and license applications. Speaking on the occasion, Mustafa said that applications submitted to the authority will henceforth be processed swiftly through such adalats to ensure timely disposal. He also announced that a monthly progress review meeting will be conducted to monitor developments. During the session, Authority Member-Secretary Swathi approved several files on the spot. Town Planner Fairoz and other officials were also present during the proceedings.

Vijayapura launches innovative pilot project boosting dairy

Vijayapura launches pilot dairy project to boost milk production, empower farmers, integrating science, and sustainable practices for economic growth

VIJAYAPURA

Vijayapura district is set to emerge as one of India's top three milk-producing regions in the next five years, said Padma Shri awardee and entrepreneur Prashanth Prakash during the launch of an innovative pilot dairy project on Saturday. The initiative, organized jointly by B.L.D.E. Society, Krishi Kalpa Foundation, and Akshayakalpa Foundation, was inaugurated by providing milk to government school children, marking a practical step toward promoting sustainable dairy farming in the district.

B.L.D.E. Deemed University Vice-Chancellor Basanagouda M. Patil highlighted that over the past 15–20 years, efforts focused on urban industrial growth. Now, with the support of Minister M.B. Patil, emphasis is being placed on establishing industries in rural areas.

Fifteen preparatory meetings have been conducted to finalize strategies using technology to increase milk production.

Minister M.B. Patil emphasized that the project targets farmers, women, and youth, encouraging community participation similar to the "One Crore Tree" campaign. Scientific integration of horticulture and dairy farming will enhance productivity and support economic empowerment.

Krishi Kalpa Foundation CEO C.M. Patil stated that 16 villages underwent comprehensive studies, and five suitable villages were selected for pilot implementation. Farmers have received training, and startups will be supported through B.L.D.E. incubation centers. Revenue generation, market development, and dairy entrepreneurship will be promoted.

Akshayakalpa Foundation founder Shashikumar noted the urgent need to preserve soil quality and boost agricultural productivity amid declining farmland. Measures include local fertilizer production, scientific fodder management, livestock health care, and proper milk processing training.

District Collector Dr. K. Anand, B.L.D.E. VC Basanagouda M. Patil, dairy association leaders, agriculture and horticulture officials, and veterinary department representatives participated in the event and engaged with farmers on the pilot project.

Six arrested for illegal wild boar hunting

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Six individuals, including an estate manager, were arrested for illegally hunting a wild boar for meat at a coffee estate in Niduvále village, Mudigere taluk, while four others, including the estate owner, remain absconding.

The arrested have been identified as Ravish B.S. (35), field officer of Kalmane Estate; Pradeep Devadiga (41), estate writer; Dejappa (46) and Seena (50), estate supervisors; Manjaya (48), vehicle driver; and Sundar (50), a daily wage worker. The absconding accused include Sundaresh (45), Dileep (45), Jeevan (42), and Dheeraj (42), owner of Kalmane Estate.

Authorities received a tip-off on November 7 about illegal hunting and storage of wild animal meat at Manjaya's residence in Báluru village under Bharathibail forest range. Officials found about 1 kg of half-cooked meat suspected to be from a wild boar. Manjaya was taken in for questioning.

During interrogation, Manjaya reportedly revealed that Jeevan had shot and killed the boar using a DBBL gun owned by Dheeraj at Kalmane Estate. The group allegedly cooked the meat at St. Mary's Kalmane Estate, Marcal, and shared it among themselves.

Forest officials then visited the estate, detained six accused, and recovered the wild boar's skull from a pond near Marcal Lake.

Remaining body parts are still being searched. Authorities also seized the DBBL gun used in the hunt and the 1 kg of cooked meat.

A case has been registered under Wildlife Case No. 04/2025-26, and the arrested individuals have been remanded to judicial custody. Search operations for the absconding accused continue.

The operation was supervised by Forest Conservation Officer Yashpal Ksheersagar, Deputy Conservator Ramesh Babu, and Assistant Conservator Akarsh T.M., led by Range Forest Officer Manjunath G. and Deputy Range Officer Suhas K.T., with support from forest guards and staff members.

Panchayat meeting held by mobile torchlight amid power outage

BALLARI

An unusual scene unfolded in Tekkalakote Town Panchayat, Siruguppa taluk, on Friday when a power outage disrupted the scheduled general meeting. With the generator under repair and no alternative arrangements in place, officials and members resorted to using mobile phone torch lights to read documents and continue proceedings.

The meeting, attended by 27 members, was chaired by Town Panchayat President S. Anand. Some members protested the lack of preparedness, criticizing officials for not ensuring backup power to avoid such disruptions. Despite the challenging conditions, the meeting continued, demonstrating the resilience of the officials and members.

Part of ceiling collapses at Hiriyur hospital, woman injured

CHITRADURGA

A ceiling collapse at Hiriyur's Mother and Child Hospital injured a visitor, highlighting unsafe infrastructure despite allocated funds, prompting urgent calls for action

The government Mother and Child Hospital in Hiriyur is facing severe infrastructure issues, leaving patients and visitors anxious about their safety. Despite the state government allocating crores of rupees for its development, the hospital's facilities remain neglected and poorly maintained.

A section of the ceiling in the maternity ward unexpectedly collapsed, injuring a woman, Abja Kausar, who had come to visit a patient. Fortunately, her infant and she narrowly escaped serious harm, but the incident has highlighted the unsafe conditions prevailing in the hospital. Chitradurga BJP MP Govind Karjol visited the hospital and expressed strong criticism of the state government, accusing the administration of corruption and inefficiency. He urged authorities to take immediate action to address the unsafe conditions.

The Taluk Health Officer confirmed that plans are underway to relocate the hospital to a new facility, but the process has yet to be expedited. The current condition of the hospital has sparked public outrage, with citizens and healthcare advocates demanding that District In-charge Minister D. Sudhakar intervene to accelerate the relocation process.

Local residents have voiced concerns over the safety of patients, particularly mothers and newborns, in the current hospital premises. The incident has brought attention to the urgent need for proper monitoring, maintenance, and timely development of healthcare infrastructure to prevent similar accidents in the future. Authorities have been urged to ensure immediate repairs and to fast-track the construction of a safer, modern hospital.

MEF unit established in Udupi district to promote education

MANGALURU

The Central Committee of the Muslim Educational Forum (MEF), Dakshina Kannada District, convened a significant meeting of all Muslim educational institutions in Udupi district on November 6 at the Jamia Masjid auditorium. The gathering focused on addressing challenges faced by Muslim educational institutions and planning initiatives to promote comprehensive educational development within the community.

Honorable Central Committee President Umar T.K. outlined the objectives behind MEF's establishment, emphasizing the urgent need to prioritize education for holistic community development. He stated that empowering students through quality education is vital for the socio-economic progress of the community. Central Committee Chairperson Moosabb P. Byari highlighted MEF's ongoing programs to improve educational standards and provide financial support for underprivileged students pursuing higher education. He noted that replicating these initiatives in Udupi necessitated the formation of a dedicated district unit. Following this, MEF Udupi District Unit was formally constituted with Shabee Ahmed Khazi of MET Vidyasamsthe as Honorary President, Huudey Muhammad Maula of Swalihat Vidya Samsthe as President, Abdul Rahiman Byari and G. Shekhabb as Vice Presidents, Aslam Haikadi as General Secretary, Faizal Islam as Joint Secretary, and G. Ashraf as Treasurer. Eight committee members were also appointed to support operations. The event was inaugurated with a recitation by Maulana Hafeez Muhammad Yunus, followed by a welcome address from Central Committee Vice President Shabee Khazi. Advocate Umar Farooq was felicitated as the unit coordinator. Other dignitaries present included Parvez Ali, B.E. Iqbal, Anwar Hussain, and Aziz Amberwalli.

Tour bus overturns near Sringeri town

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A tourist bus carrying lecturers and students from Vasavi PU College, Challakere, overturned near Agrahara, close to Kavadi in Sringeri, on Saturday , after the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle. The passengers were on an educational excursion to Sringeri when the mishap occurred, creating panic among those on board and nearby residents. According to local authorities, the bus had 25 students and three lecturers at the time of the accident. Three lecturers and 22 students suffered minor injuries and were treated promptly at a nearby hospital, where they received first aid and were discharged after observation. Two students sustained serious injuries and were immediately transferred to Manipal Hospital for further medical care. Officials confirmed that the students are stable and receiving necessary treatment.

Eyewitnesses stated that the driver appeared to have lost control while negotiating a sharp curve on the route. Quick action by local residents, along with police and emergency medical teams, ensured that the injured were rescued and transported to hospitals without delay. Authorities have cordoned off the accident site to investigate the exact cause of the overturn. The college authorities expressed concern over the safety of students during excursions.

Vijayanagara honors Kanakadasa on birth anniversary

VIJAYANAGARA

The legacy of the renowned poet, philosopher, and Haridasa tradition musician Kanakadasa was celebrated with reverence as District Collector Kavita S. Mannikeri paid tribute to his portrait during the Kanakadasa Jayanti program held at the District Collectorate auditorium. The event was organized collaboratively by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Kannada and Culture.

Addressing the gathering, Kavita S. Mannikeri highlighted Kanakadasa's lifelong commitment to social equality and harmony. She noted that the saint used literature and philosophical poetry to awaken society against social discrimination, envisioning a community where peace and justice prevailed across all castes. Kanakadasa's contributions were not only literary but administrative as well, as he reportedly managed 78 villages while composing devotional songs and philosophical works that communicated moral and spiritual teachings to the common people.

She emphasized that Kanakadasa's writings inspire values of unity, compassion, humanity, faith, and justice. His works, created in Kannada for easy understanding, continue to guide people on righteous paths, fostering ethical and spiritual thinking.

EDUCATION SHAPES LIFE

True education shapes one's outlook on life: Dr Alagur

KARKALA

"Education is not merely the accumulation of knowledge but the process of shaping one's thinking, morality, and outlook on life," said Prof. (Dr.) Siddu P. Alagur, Vice-Chancellor of Kerala Central University. He was speaking at the 15th convocation of Nitte Deemed University held at the Nitte campus on Saturday.

Dr. Alagur emphasized that true education goes beyond classrooms, grades, and certificates. "It teaches not what to think, but how to think — fostering curiosity and a questioning mind," he said. In the age of artificial intelligence and data, knowledge has become vast, and technology has blurred the lines between real and virtual life. Education, he noted, should not be confined to degrees but should be viewed as a lifelong journey.

He stressed that in the modern century, along with digital literacy, moral clarity, emotional intelligence, technical expertise, and a balance between global awareness and local commitment are essential. "The world needs not just intelligent minds but compassionate hearts," he added. Speaking as the presiding officer, Dr. Shantharam Shetty, Pro-Chancellor (Hospital Management), said that science inspires innovation, while quality education and moral values shape responsible citizens. He reminded students never to let envy, greed, or selfishness overshadow their integrity.

During the ceremony, 646 graduates received degrees, including MTech, MCA, and MBA. Several gold medalists were also honoured. The event saw participation from university leaders, council members, and faculty. Dr. Sudhir Raj K. and Premita Kamath anchored the programme.

CH
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CHANGE OF NAME

I RAMACHANDIRAN V S/O VENKATACHALAM DESA NAIDU R/O 13, Park Avenue, 3rd Block, 3A Street, Near St Vincent Pallotti School, Babusapalya, Horamavu Agara, Horamavu, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560043, have changed the name of my minor daughter NANDANA aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as NANDANA RAMACHANDIRAN.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANOJ KUMAR MULANJUR (old name), a resident of No No B201, HINDUJA LAKE FRONT ESTATE, BANNERGHATTA ROAD, NEAR HULIMAVU POLICE STATION, HULIMAVU, Bengaluru, 560076, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR NAIR (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 10-11-2025, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUTANWI CHOWDHURY (old name), a resident of No F302, PURVA PALM BEACH, ELUS ROAD, KYALASANAHALLI, Bengaluru, 560077, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to SUTANWI CHOWDHURY SENGUPTA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 08-11-2025, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I SUDESH KUMAR S/O NARAYANA KATAPADY, R/O Om Sai 3-61(1), 4th Cross, Achada, Nagappa Poojary City Salpa Habitats, Moodabettu, Katapadi(udupi), Udupi, Karnataka - 574105, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUDHESH KUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I EVANGILAMMA KATIPOGU alias KATIPOGU EVANGILAMMA D/O IMMANUEL KATIPOGU, R/O House No 215, Janata Colony, Near Madura Colony, Kusugal Road, Hubli, Dharwad, Karnataka-580020, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as EVANGELINE KATIPOGU.

IN THE COURT OF THE HONOURABLE ADDITIONAL JUDGE AT HOSUR
O.S.No.466/2022

Petitioners/Plaintiffs
Venkataramanappa
...plaintiff
Vs
Respondents/Defendants
No. 2 and 7,:
No.2 Mr. Thimmaraju S/o Late. Dassappa
No.7 Mr. Rajanna S/o Late. Dasappa
Both are residing at No.325, 9th Mani Road, 6th Cross, Sreeantaya road, Hanumantha Nagar. Bangalore-560019
..Defendant

NOTICE

Please take notice that the above petitioners/plaintiffs have filed a Suit in the above Honorable Additional District judge at Hosur Court praying Partition and for other reliefs against you the Respondent No 2 and 7. The above petition and the suit is posted to 12.11 2025. You are hereby called upon to appear by person or with the help of the pleader and file the objections if any before the Hon'ble Court on the said date at about 10.00 A.M., and state your objections, failing which, the court. may proceed to pass Adverse orders against you.

L.VARADHARAJ , BBA, LLB
Dhasappa Building, 1st Floor, Kottaivasal, Thally Road, DENKANIKOTTAI -635107.
Cell: 96297 25177
Ph. No.9942287557

QUICK READ

2 Odisha men held for duping Delhi trader of ₹20 lakh

New Delhi
Delhi Police arrested two men from Bhubaneswar in Odisha for allegedly duping a rice trader of ₹20 lakh. Basudev Swain of Lucknow and Deepak Kumar of Varanasi, along with a co-accused, posed as officials of Smartvalue Ltd. claiming to buy rice for testing and future purchases. The trader supplied rice trusting their documents, but the accused vanished. Police confirmed the papers and seals were forged. Charged with cheating, forgery, and criminal conspiracy, the men admitted their crimes during interrogation. Investigation continues to trace associates and uncover other victims targeted by this scheme.

2 criminals injured in Panipat police encounter

Panipat
Two men were injured in a police encounter in Panipat's Sector 29 area after allegedly opening fire during an attempted arrest. Sandeep and Naveen, along with accomplice Deepak, tried to escape on a motorcycle following a robbery in Vikas Nagar where Rs. 3 lakh, a gold chain, and silver anklets were stolen. Police recovered three illegal pistols and six live cartridges. The injured accused are stable at PGI Khanpur. A new FIR has been registered, and further investigation is ongoing to apprehend all involved and prevent similar incidents.

PMK postpones stir against caste census to Dec 12

Chennai
The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) has postponed its statewide protest demanding a caste-based census in Tamil Nadu to December 12. Party founder S. Ramadoss said demonstrations will take place in front of District Collector offices to press for proportional reservations and social justice. He urged the government to grant the Vanniyar community 10.5% quota as an interim measure until the census is completed. Ramadoss emphasized that the movement aims to unite all communities for fair representation. The PMK plans to continue its peaceful struggle, which could shape political debates ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

RGCB scientists pay tribute to James Watson

Thiruvananthapuram
Scientists at the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) mourned the passing of Nobel Laureate Prof James D. Watson, co-discoverer of DNA's double-helix structure. Watson, who shared the 1962 Nobel Prize with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins, revolutionized molecular biology and laid the foundation for modern genetics. RGCB Director Dr. T.R. Santhosh Kumar recalled Watson's visit in 1999, when he inspired students and faculty with his lecture on DNA and biotechnology. The institute said his pioneering work continues to guide researchers worldwide. RGCB highlighted his enduring legacy in advancing biomedical science and motivating future generations of scientists.

'FESTIVAL OF DEVELOPMENT'

PM Modi flags off 4 new Vande Bharat trains

With these, the number of Vande Bharat trains has crossed 160 nationwide

VARANASI

In a major step toward expanding India's modern rail infrastructure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off four new Vande Bharat Express trains from the Banaras Railway Station.

The new services mark another milestone in his vision of delivering world-class, high-speed connectivity across the country.

4 new routes to strengthen national network

The new Vande Bharat Express trains will operate on the Banaras–Khajuraho, Lucknow–Saharanpur, Firozpur–Delhi, and Ernakulam–Bengaluru routes. Designed to significantly reduce travel time and enhance comfort, each train will improve regional mobility, boost tourism, and spur local economies.

Infra works a catalyst for development: PM

Addressing the public after flagging off the trains, PM Modi highlighted the pivotal role infrastructure plays in a nation's progress. "The economic growth in countries across the world has been deeply intertwined with advancements in infrastructure," he said.

Terming the trains a "symbol of Indian pride", the PM said, "They represent the future of modern rail travel. Trains like Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat, and Amrit Bharat are shaping the next generation of Indian Railways."

Modi also praised Uttar Pradesh's rapid development, highlighting progress in healthcare, infrastructure, and tourism. He noted that Varanasi alone hosted 11 crore devotees last year and credited initiatives like Ayushman Bharat for saving crores for poor patients.

"Varanasi today reflects India's changing face — modern, vibrant, and self-reliant," the PM concluded.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and senior officials attended the ceremony.

Tourism experts predict a threefold rise in domestic and foreign visitors to Khajuraho, citing improved accessibility.

NEW TRAINS THAT OFFER VAST SCOPE

- Ernakulam–Bengaluru train will save passengers over 2 hours, improving travel between major southern IT hubs.
- Banaras–Khajuraho train connects major religious sites such as Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Khajuraho, cutting travel time by nearly three hours.
- Lucknow–Saharanpur route will link key cities like Bareilly, Moradabad, and Haridwar
- Firozpur–Delhi service becomes the fastest on that route, finishing trip in 6 hours and 40 minutes.

SC respects economic policy decisions: CJI Gavai

NEW DELHI

'In commercial and corporate matters, the Court ensures transparency, prevents fraud, and that legal interpretations must reflect legislative intent, public interest, and fairness.'

Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Saturday said the Supreme Court has always acted as a guardian of the Constitution while ensuring it does not interfere in economic policy decisions, unless there is a clear violation of fundamental rights or constitutional provisions.

Speaking at the Sixth Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts, CJI Gavai emphasised that the judiciary has been "a steady guardian of the rule of law", balancing economic freedom, regulation, and fairness. He said, "The Supreme Court ensures it does not intervene in policy matters with economic considerations unless constitutional rights are breached."

He noted that in commercial and corporate matters, the Court maintains transparency and integrity, preventing misuse of legal structures for fraudulent gains. He also stressed that interpretations of commercial laws must align with the legislative intent while upholding public interest and fairness.

Highlighting the Court's approach, CJI Gavai said that the State's power in taxation and regulation must have a clear legal basis and remain within constitutional limits. Regulatory bodies, he added, should act reasonably and proportionately to preserve financial stability and public trust.

The CJI also underscored the need for timely dispute resolution to strengthen India's financial system. As India moves toward a digital and green economy, he said commercial laws must promote sustainability, ethics, and responsibility.

Quoting India's constitutional spirit, he added, "Profit must align with purpose." He praised companies adopting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, calling them vital for a responsible market and sustainable growth.

'VOTE THEFT'

Cong plans massive week-long stir in New Delhi from Nov 25

BHOPAL

The Congress party has announced a massive week-long protest in New Delhi's Ramleela Maidan from November 25 to 30, with over 50,000 party workers from Madhya Pradesh expected to join.

The movement, part of a nationwide campaign against alleged "vote theft," aims to draw attention to what the party calls irregularities in the electoral process.

Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari said during a press conference that party workers would also form a human chain outside the President's House as a symbolic act of unity. The protest, he added, will be a peaceful demonstration of the Congress's demand for electoral transparency and fairness.

Senior leader Sajjan Singh Verma, heading a committee overseeing election-related concerns in the state, accused the Election Commission (EC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of manipulating the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process currently underway in Madhya Pradesh. He claimed that 1.5 lakh RSS workers have been enrolled as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and alleged that the contact details of around 28,000 BLOs were missing from the list given to the party.

Verma further stated that the SIR process began without full preparation, as many BLOs have yet to receive Form 18, and 65% of villages have not been provided with the necessary forms.

The Election Commission launched the second phase of the SIR process in nine states and three Union Territories on November 4. The exercise will continue until December 4, with final voter lists to be published on February 7, 2026 after all claims are settled.

VVPAT slips found were from mock poll: CEC

NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday assured that the integrity of the Bihar polls remained intact after confusion arose over VVPAT slips found outside a polling booth in Samastipur's Sariranjan area.

He clarified that the slips were from a mock poll conducted before actual voting began and had no link to real ballots.

"The polling process remains fully uncompromised," Kumar said during a press briefing at Nirvachan Sadan, adding that the District Magistrate of Samastipur was ordered to inspect the site immediately. DM Roshan Kumar confirmed that the slips came from a routine mock test held at 5:30 a.m., where 50 votes were cast to check the EVM-VVPAT system before polling. These slips should have been destroyed under CCTV supervision, as per protocol.

The Election Commission took swift disciplinary action against the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) of Rosera, suspending him for negligence and ordering an FIR under Section 188 of the IPC. According to officials, the ARO had briefly left the booth, and a junior staffer mistakenly discarded the slips outside the 100-metre restricted zone.

CCTV footage showed a sanitation worker accidentally scattering the slips while cleaning. A fresh VVPAT-EVM verification confirmed full accuracy, and voting resumed by 9:30 a.m., recording 68% turnout by evening.

To prevent future errors, the Election Commission has now introduced biometric verification and GPS tracking of mock poll waste disposal at sensitive booths.

"Every slip, every vote, every doubt — addressed with evidence," CEC Kumar said, reaffirming public trust before the final phase of polling on November 11.

Maha Cong wants govt release white paper on land deals

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Congress has demanded that the MahaYuti government release a white paper on controversial land transactions in Pune and Mumbai and hold a day-long discussion during the winter session of the Assembly starting December 8 in Nagpur.

Addressing the media, State Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal accused the ruling alliance of "shameless corruption" and claimed that state lands worth crores are being sold at cheap rates. "The MahaYuti government is like a rhinoceros — thick-skinned and unbothered by corruption charges. Every day, new scams are exposed, but no action is taken," Sapkal said.

He raised strong questions about the Pune land deal involving Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, Parth Pawar, who allegedly bought 40 acres of Mahar Watan land for ₹300 crore but paid only ₹500 in stamp duty. Sapkal claimed that a proposal to build an IT park was immediately approved, followed by multiple document changes. "If the deal was cancelled later, that means they admit wrongdoing. Why has no FIR been filed against Parth Pawar?" he asked.

Sapkal also alleged that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's relative, serving as Charity Commissioner, was linked to another Pune land case involving BJP Minister Muralidhar Mohol. He further accused the government of gifting prime lands to industrialists in Mumbai and committing irregularities in Pune's Ring Road project.

Calling for transparency, Sapkal urged the government to publish a full white paper covering all land transactions, including those along the Samruddhi Highway. He also accused the BJP of using the Vande Mataram anniversary for political and divisive purposes.

JAIN CULTURE

India must draw strength from its spiritual traditions in digi age: VP

NEW DELHI

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan praised the government's commitment to preserving India's ancient heritage, especially the Jain manuscripts and the Prakrit language, during the Eighth 180 Upvas Parna Ceremony of Jain Acharya Hansratna Surishwarji Maharaj in New Delhi on Saturday.

Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan
यशोगाथा
यशोगाथा
दिव्यतपस्वी

Radhakrishnan commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for granting 'Classical Language' status to Prakrit on October 3, 2024, recognising its cultural and historical value as a source of ancient literature and Jain philosophy. He said that in an age dominated by digital distractions, India must draw strength from its spiritual traditions to build a compassionate and united nation.

The Vice President lauded Acharya Hansratna Surishwarji Maharaj for showing that true strength lies not in wealth or power, but in restraint and compassion. He said the Acharya's campaign — "Save Culture, Save Family, Build Nation" — inspires people to uphold moral values, strengthen families, and promote peace.

Highlighting Jainism's influence in Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan noted its reflection in Sangam literature, epics like Silappathikaram, and Jain monasteries that once served as learning centres. He mentioned that texts like the Tirukkural and Perungathai carry deep Jain influences, spreading the ideals of Ahimsa, truth, and non-violence.

He also praised Jainism's global legacy of vegetarianism, compassion, and sustainability, calling it a model for environmental care. Sharing a personal note, Radhakrishnan revealed he became vegetarian 25 years ago after visiting Kashi, saying the practice nurtures humility and love for all beings.

'Trishul' highlights India's joint military prowess

NEW DELHI

The Indian Army's Southern Command has launched Exercise Trishul, a major Tri-Service military drill involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force to test India's multi-domain readiness and strengthen cooperation across land, sea, and air.

Under the theme of JAI — Jointness, Atmanirbharta, and Innovation, the exercise aims to validate India's growing self-reliance in defence technology and showcase how modern warfare integrates multiple platforms and capabilities. Officials said the drills focus on electronic warfare, cyber defence, drone and counter-drone tactics, surveillance, and air defence coordination — ensuring the Armed Forces can dominate both virtual and physical battlefields.

In the Thar Desert, the Army is conducting Exercises MaruJwala and Akhand Prahaar, testing joint mobility, precision targeting, and coordination between different combat arms. The Southern Command's integrated formations are simulating real war conditions to validate joint firepower and rapid response systems.

Another phase in the Kutch Sector brings together the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and BSF, along with civil agencies, to rehearse national security responses in line with India's Military–Civil Fusion approach.

QUICK READ

One killed as coal mine collapses in Asansol

Kolkata
A young man, Saurabh Goswami, died when earth caved in at a coal mine in Charanpur village, Asansol, West Burdwan district. Though the mine was legal, locals have long been involved in risky illegal mining. Early Saturday, several villagers entered the site; Saurabh was crushed, while others escaped. Police recovered his body and sent it for autopsy, dismissing fears of more victims. Locals allege authorities and CISF personnel guarding the mine remain silent despite repeated incidents. Many residents reportedly risk their lives to steal coal for income, highlighting ongoing safety and enforcement concerns.

Kerala CM criticises RSS anthem at train launch

Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condemned the Southern Railway after students sang an RSS “Gana Geetham” during the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express inauguration. Calling it a violation of constitutional and secular values, he criticised the use of a government event to promote RSS ideology. Vijayan said the song disrespected India’s freedom struggle and pushed divisive politics under the guise of patriotism. The launch, flagged off virtually by PM Modi, was meant to mark Kerala’s third Vande Bharat train, covering 608 km in nine hours. Southern Railway later removed social media posts showing the performance.

Rs 1,400 cr WB loan for tribal development: Tripura CM

Agartala
Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha announced that the state has secured a Rs 1,400 crore loan from the World Bank under Externally Aided Projects (EAP) to boost development in tribal-inhabited areas. Speaking at a function in Killa, Gomati district, he highlighted plans to improve roads, electricity, water supply, health, and education. CM Saha noted that over 40% of the 2025-26 state budget has been allocated for tribal development, and previous allowances for tribal leaders have been increased to Rs 5,000. With TTAADC elections early next year, tribal welfare remains a key focus for the state government and regional parties.

Modi: ‘Jungle Raj’ pushed land of Satyagraha into den of thugs

The PM praised Nitish Kumar for restoring Bihar’s peace and development, emphasizing the need to protect stability from returning to ‘Jungle Raj’

PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday strongly criticised the Grand Alliance, accusing it of dragging Bihar’s historic land of Satyagraha into chaos and lawlessness.

Speaking at a massive rally in Bettiah, West Champaran, Modi said the RJD and Congress regimes had turned the state into a “den of thugs and dacoits.”

“Champaran, once known for Gandhi’s Satyagraha, was ruined during the RJD’s jungle raj,” he said. “Murders were common, and it was unsafe for women to step outside their homes.” Modi warned that when the rule of law collapses, it is the poor and weak who suffer the most, as guns replace governance and dreams are destroyed.

‘Nitish Kumar restored peace, development’

Comparing past and present governments, the Prime Minister praised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for restoring peace and development under the NDA. “Under Nitishji’s leadership, Bihar has seen stability. We must protect it from returning to jungle raj,” he said.

Mocking an RJD rally video, Modi said, “A child there said he wants to become a ‘rangdaar’. This shows the mindset they promote.”

‘State to lead India in tourism, textiles, tech’

On Bihar’s future, Modi said the state would soon lead India in food processing, tourism, textiles, and technology. He credited youth, women, and farmers for turning the election into a people’s movement.

“This is not an election fought by leaders, but by the people of Bihar themselves,” Modi said, urging voters to back the NDA for honest governance. “This land of Satyagraha will again lead Bihar toward progress and prosperity,” he said recalling Champaran’s proud legacy.

Rajnath promises defence corridor for Bihar

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that Bihar is entering a new era of progress, declaring that the state will soon produce missiles and cannons instead of country-made guns.

Addressing an election rally in Ramgarh Assembly seat, Singh announced plans to set up a defence corridor in Bihar, symbolising the state’s shift from backwardness to industrial development.

“I want to tell RJD people — Ab katta nahin, tope banegi, missile banegi,” Singh said, adding that the NDA’s manifesto is an “Atal Pratigya” rooted in sincerity and development. He stressed that the government would create jobs through industry and infrastructure, not by making unrealistic promises.

“We will not make false claims of giving government jobs to every home. Instead, we will establish MSME and defence corridors to build lasting employment,” he said.

Addressing another rally in Karakat, Singh accused the Congress of dividing people for votes, referring to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s remarks linking Muslims and Congress. “BJP has never played politics of caste or religion. We believe in the politics of justice and humanity,” he asserted.

He also criticised Rahul Gandhi, saying, “Wherever he goes, he claims votes were stolen in Bihar. Is lying now a requirement for political success?”

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensures promises made are fulfilled, adding that the NDA’s governance is built on trust. “We do politics to build society, not just form government. RJD and Congress only spread lies and buy votes,” he said, assuring that Bihar will no longer be left behind in India’s development story.

Cong terms Amit Shah a ‘fake Chanakya’

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday hit back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s prediction that the NDA will win over 160 seats in the Bihar Assembly elections, calling his claim an “illusion” and dubbing him a “fake Chanakya.”

Congress leader Pawan Khera said Bihar’s people were giving a clear mandate in favour of the Opposition alliance. “We are confident of winning at least 72 seats. Those who claim to cross 400 seats should remember that such slogans don’t change reality. The Home Minister’s plan will not work; he is a fake Chanakya,” Khera said.

Backing his statement, Congress MP Pramod Tiwari mocked the BJP’s election predictions, recalling the party’s drop in this year’s Lok Sabha polls. “You promised 400 seats but fell from 306 to 238. So, where did your assessment go wrong?” Tiwari asked.

Earlier, Amit Shah, while addressing rallies in Bihar, had confidently predicted a big victory for the NDA under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s leadership, promising to rid the state of illegal infiltrators and create alternative livelihoods for those affected. He said the NDA government would continue to work for security, development, and stability in Bihar.

However, Congress dismissed Shah’s promises as “political posturing” ahead of the elections. Party leaders said that voters in Bihar are more focused on unemployment, inflation, and rural development than on rhetoric and claims.

With the second phase of voting set for November 11, the political war of words between the BJP-led NDA and the Opposition alliance has further intensified, setting the stage for a heated contest in the state.

ECI aiding vote theft: Priyanka Vadra

PATNA

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday launched a fierce attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP, and the Election Commission of India (ECI) during a rally in Purnea, accusing them of “playing with the Constitution and democracy.”

She alleged that Modi and top Election Commission officials were part of a “vote theft conspiracy.” Priyanka named senior officials Gyanesh Kumar, Vivek Joshi, and S.S. Sandhu, claiming they were helping the ruling party manipulate elections. “The Constitution gives people the power to vote, but when the BJP saw its defeat, it started stealing votes. Narendra Modi is a vote thief,” she declared.

Criticizing Modi’s speeches, she said the Prime Minister used “undignified language” and spoke of “guns, ransom, and murders.” She also blamed his government for farmer distress, mentioning a Lalitpur incident where a farmer allegedly died waiting for fertilizer.

Accusing the BJP of favoring industrialists, Priyanka claimed, “Land in Bihar was given to Modi’s friends for one rupee per acre, but nothing was done for the youth.”

She also raised the issue of exam paper leaks in Bihar, saying they were “ruining young people’s futures.”

Referring to Rahul Gandhi’s Voter Adhikar Yatra, she said it was launched to protect citizens’ voting rights after 65 lakh names were removed from voter lists.

Promising relief, she said a vote for Mahagathbandhan would bring cheaper gas cylinders, land for the poor, pensions, and better pay for women’s groups.

“Bihar has always led India’s democratic movements,” Priyanka said, urging people to defend their rights.

BIHAR
Election 2025

MUMBAI FACES SHELTER CRUNCH TO HOUSE 90,000 STRAY DOGS

MUMBAI

Mumbai’s civic authorities are struggling to comply with the Supreme Court’s recent directive to relocate stray dogs to shelters, as the city currently has only eight shelters for over 90,000 stray canines.

The Supreme Court, on Friday, noted the rising number of dog bite incidents in hospitals, schools, and railway stations and ordered that all stray dogs be sterilised, vaccinated, and moved to designated shelters. It also criticised the “systemic failure” of authorities to protect citizens from preventable dangers.

According to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials, Mumbai’s current stray dog population stands at 90,600, slightly down from 95,752 recorded in a 2014 census. This reduction was achieved through the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme. However, officials said that earlier, sterilised dogs were released back to their locations, as the civic body had limited shelter capacity.

A senior BMC officer said that to implement the new court order, many more shelters will be needed. Each facility will require trained handlers, veterinarians, food and water provisions, and sufficient space to house thousands of animals for the rest of their lives — which typically span 12 to 15 years.

Officials estimate that if even 40 percent of strays are relocated, Mumbai would need shelters for at least 40,000 dogs. The civic body is now assessing land availability and partnerships with NGOs to meet the Supreme Court’s requirements.

Animal welfare groups have urged the authorities to balance public safety with humane treatment, calling for community adoption and proper care instead of mass confinement.

Agreeing with CM Fadnavis, Pawar termed the matter serious and said probe must reveal real picture of Amedea LLP’s transactions

Pune land scam: Pawar wants clean probe

AKOLA

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said that a fair probe must be held into the Pune land deal controversy involving Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar’s son Parth Pawar, and the truth must be presented before the public.

Pawar said he agreed with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who had earlier termed the matter “serious.” He added that a proper inquiry should reveal the “real picture” of the transaction made by Amedea Enterprises LLP, Parth’s firm. “An enquiry committee has already been formed, so we must wait for its report,” he said.

The senior Pawar’s remarks came a day after Ajit Pawar announced the cancellation of the land deal in Pune’s Mundhwa-Koregaon Park area. Ajit said that no money had exchanged hands, and that the six-member committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Vikas Kharge would probe the registration process.

Sharad Pawar dismissed suggestions that family ties affected his stance, saying, “There is a difference between administration, politics, and family. We have even contested elections against each other.”

When asked about Supriya Sule’s soft remarks on the issue, he said it could be her personal view. On claims that Ajit Pawar was being targeted, he declined to comment.

Meanwhile, Ajit Pawar reiterated that the police would ensure a transparent investigation, with two FIRs already registered.

Commenting on national politics, Sharad Pawar also said that voters in Bihar are politically aware and may seek change in the ongoing Assembly elections. Regarding Maharashtra’s upcoming local body polls, he said, “The Opposition’s decisions will be taken unanimously.”

CORE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

On high hope: Parliament Winter Session to be held from Dec 1-19

NEW DELHI

The Winter Session of Parliament will be held from December 1 to 19, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju announced on Saturday.

The schedule has been approved by President Droupadi Murmu, though dates may be adjusted depending on parliamentary business.

In a post on X, Rijiju said, “Looking forward to a constructive and meaningful session that strengthens our democracy and serves the aspirations of the people.” He expressed hope that this session would run smoothly and focus on key legislative work.

The previous Monsoon Session saw 21 sittings between July 21 and August 21, but productivity was low due to frequent disruptions. The Lok Sabha functioned for just 37 hours out of the planned 120, while the Rajya Sabha worked for 41 hours and 15 minutes, recording productivity rates of 31 and 38.8 percent, respectively.

This Winter Session will also mark the first session for Vice President CP Radhakrishnan as Rajya Sabha Chairman. Radhakrishnan, who assumed office on September 12, recently toured various departments in Parliament House, including the Legislative Section, Table Office, and Bill Office, to understand their operations.

He praised the staff’s professionalism and urged them to continue working with dedication and efficiency. During his visit, he also extended Diwali greetings and reaffirmed his commitment to making parliamentary proceedings more efficient and people-focused.

The upcoming session is expected to focus on pending bills, discussions on key national issues, and policy debates, setting the tone for a productive end to the legislative year.

Odisha acts against 7 cops over Puri stampede

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has ordered disciplinary action against seven police officers and a private technology firm after an inquiry found major lapses that led to the Puri Rath Yatra stampede, which claimed three lives and injured 20 others on June 29 this year.

According to official sources, a letter from the Home Department to the Director General of Police instructed action based on the inquiry report submitted by Development Commissioner Anu Garg to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on July 31.

The tragedy occurred around 4 a.m. near the Shree Gundicha Temple when two trucks carrying ritual wood entered a crowded area, triggering panic and chaos. The report identified serious lapses in crowd control and found that two senior officers — Ajay Kumar Padhi and Vishnu Prasad Pati — were absent from the site during the incident. Both have been suspended, and further disciplinary proceedings are recommended.

Other officers, including Tapas Ranjan Das, K. K. Nayak, Prasanta Kumar Sahoo, Susanta Kumar Sahoo, and Sarada Prasad Dash, were also found negligent in crowd management duties.

The inquiry also exposed failures in the AI-based surveillance system under the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Puri. Out of 275 sanctioned cameras, only 123 were functional, leaving critical zones unmonitored.

The Home Department has recommended blacklisting the ICCC vendor for poor performance. Following the tragedy, the then District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain and SP V. Agrawal were transferred.

The government said it aims to ensure accountability and safer crowd management for future religious events.

QUICK READ

Pakistani forces abduct another civilian in Baloch

Quetta

Another Baloch civilian has been forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces in Balochistan amid a growing wave of enforced disappearance across the province, said a leading human rights organisation on Saturday. The latest incident comes against the backdrop of a continuing cycle of persecution marked by a surge in enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture across the province. Expressing concern Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department mentioned that Faraz Ahmed, a resident of Peer Muhammad Bazaar in Panjgur District, was abducted on November 5 from the Satellite Town area of provincial capital Quetta.

NCP declares no 'note of dissent' in July charter

Dhaka

In a growing political conflict in Bangladesh, the National Citizen Party (NCP) asserted there would be no note of dissent in the July charter, local media reported. The remarks came after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) recently accused the country's National Consensus Commission of deceiving the people and political parties with its final recommendations on the July Charter, calling for its immediate correction by incorporating the notes of dissent. Whatever consensus we have reached will stand, and the people will decide the rest. If they agree, those decisions will be implemented, Bangladesh's newspaper quoted NCP Convener Nahid Islam as saying, while speaking at an event in Dhaka on Friday.

11th FOC: India-US discuss bilateral ties

Yerevan

India and Armenia held the 11th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Yerevan, where both sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Saturday. According to the MEA, the two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in multilateral fora. The Indian delegation was led by Sibi George, MEA Secretary (West), while the Armenian delegation was led by Mnatsakan Safaryan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia.

TOXIC AFTERMATH OF WAR

Ecological breakdown haunts ruins of Gaza

'The entire neighbourhoods have been levelled, hospitals reduced to rubble, and water has become toxic'

GAZA

Israel's prolonged war on Gaza has left not only widespread destruction and mass displacement but also a deep environmental catastrophe.

The entire neighbourhoods have been levelled, hospitals reduced to rubble, and now, the very ground and water sustaining Palestinian life have become toxic. Four weeks into a tenuous ceasefire that Israel continues to violate daily, the environmental fallout is becoming increasingly visible.

In Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, once a bustling residential area, homes now lie in ruins beside what used to be a vital rainwater pond. That pond has turned into a contaminated cesspool, brimming with sewage and debris. For many displaced families, this polluted site has become their last refuge.

"We took refuge around the Sheikh Radwan pond, with all the suffering you could imagine—from mosquitoes to sewage with rising levels, let alone the destruction all around. All this poses a danger to our lives and the lives of our children," a woman who wades through foul water with her children said.

The pond, originally designed to collect rainwater and discharge it safely to the sea, now holds raw sewage after Israeli air strikes destroyed Gaza's pumping stations.

"With the city's electricity grid and sanitation systems crippled, the contaminated water continues to rise, threatening nearby homes and tents. There is no doubt there are grave impacts on all citizens: foul odours, insects, mosquitoes," says municipal officer.

Water levels have exceeded six metres, and the fence is completely destroyed. There is a high risk for children, women, or even vehicles to fall in. As Gaza struggles to recover, its poisoned land and water warn of an unfolding environmental disaster that could persist for generations, says another official.

Massive debris accumulation

The prolonged war has generated an estimated 61 million tonnes of debris, about 107 kg for every square meter, as per a UNEP report. This rubble poses risks to human health and the environment, from dust and contamination with unexploded ordnance, asbestos, industrial and medical waste, and other hazardous substances. Clearing them will be a monumental and dangerous task, which is estimated to take over a decade.

UPS, FedEx ground MD-11 fleet after deadly Kentucky crash

LOUISVILLE

Delivery giants UPS and FedEx have temporarily grounded portions of their cargo fleets following a devastating mid-takeoff crash in Kentucky that left at least 14 people dead and several others injured.

The UPS MD-11 cargo aircraft burst into flames after veering off the runway at Louisville International Airport on Tuesday, colliding with nearby commercial buildings and triggering a massive blaze that gutted several structures.

Officials confirmed that the death toll climbed to 14 after another body was discovered amid the wreckage, as emergency crews continued to search for more victims in the fire-damaged area.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg expressed condolences to the victims' families, saying, We pray for each of the victims' families and pray that no additional victims are lost.

UPS said it grounded all MD-11 models in its fleet following a safety recommendation from Boeing, while FedEx also confirmed it would suspend operations involving the same aircraft type. Boeing, which inherited the MD-11 line after merging with McDonnell Douglas in 1997, told Reuters the grounding was an abundance of caution and said it was coordinating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) reported that the aircraft's left engine caught fire and detached from the wing during takeoff. The plane, a 34-year-old MD-11F model carrying 38,000 gallons (144,000 litres) of fuel, was bound for Hawaii when the crash occurred, fueling the intense post-impact fire.

UPS confirmed that the grounded aircraft represent about 9% of its total fleet, while FedEx operates 28 MD-11s. Both companies assured customers that contingency measures were in place to maintain delivery operations. Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our employees and the communities we serve, UPS said in a statement.

N. KOREA WARNS OF 'MORE OFFENSIVE ACTION' AMID US-S. KOREA TALKS

PYONGYANG

North Korea's defence minister, No Kwang Chol, has condemned the arrival of a United States aircraft carrier at a port in South Korea and warned that Pyongyang will take more offensive action against its enemies.

The minister's warning comes a day after North Korea launched what appeared to be a short-range ballistic missile into the sea off its east coast.

"We will show more offensive action against the enemies' threat on the principle of ensuring security and defending peace by dint of powerful strength," the defence minister said, as per reports.

"All threats encroaching upon the sphere of the North's security will become direct targets and be managed in a necessary way, also reported the defence minister as saying.

The missile launch followed after Washington announced new sanctions targeting eight North Korean nationals and two entities accused of laundering money tied to cybercrimes, and a visit to South Korea by US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

According to KCNA, the defence minister made his comments in response to the annual South Korea-US Security Consultative Meeting and the recent arrival of the USS George Washington aircraft carrier and the Fifth Carrier Strike Group at a port in Busan.

Patna-born doctor Anjani Sinha takes charge as US Envoy to Singapore

SINGAPORE

From the bylanes of Patna to the corridors of global diplomacy, Dr Anjani K. Sinha has charted an inspiring journey.

The Delhi University alumnus and distinguished orthopaedic surgeon officially began his tenure as the US Ambassador to Singapore this week, marking another milestone for her whose life has been defined by service, skill, and statesmanship.

"I am deeply honoured to represent the US in Singapore, a friend of the US that is a leading hub for American business and a pillar of regional stability," Ambassador Sinha said upon his arrival in Singapore.

"President Trump has asked me to increase our ambitions for cooperation with Singapore, based on mutual respect and shared priorities. I look forward to working together in areas such as technology, energy, and security." Dr Sinha's appointment underscores Washington's commitment to strengthening ties with Singapore -- a relationship that has thrived for nearly six decades.

The U.S.-Singapore partnership has brought tangible benefits to both nations through collaboration in emerging technologies, energy security, law enforcement, and defence.

Afghan Taliban blames 'irresponsible' Pak as peace talks fail

KABUL

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have blamed Pakistan for a lack of results after mediated talks by Qatar and Turkiye in Istanbul, but have insisted a previously agreed ceasefire will hold despite recent clashes between the two neighbouring countries.

The end of the talks without any resolution came shortly after the Taliban said several Afghan civilians were killed and others were wounded in clashes along the border with Pakistan.

"Two days of talks were conducted in good faith, with the Taliban expecting Islamabad to present realistic and implementable demands to reach a fundamental solution," Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid stated on social media on Saturday morning.

During the talks, the Pakistani side attempted to refer all responsibilities regarding its security to the Afghan government, while at the same time it did not demonstrate any willingness to assume responsibility for either Afghanistan's security or its own.

Mujahid claimed that Pakistan exhibited irresponsible and non-cooperative attitude which meant that there was no outcome from the talks.

At a news conference later on, the spokesman stressed that the ceasefire has not been violated by the Taliban, and will continue to be observed.

Pakistan's government did not immediately react to the statement.

But Pakistan had also confirmed that the talks were at a deadlock, and no real progress was made as a ceasefire brokered by Qatar remained intact.

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said Islamabad will not support any steps by the Taliban government that are not in the interest of the Afghan people or neighbouring countries. Pakistan believes that the authorities in Kabul are harbouring armed groups, particularly the Pakistan Taliban (Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan or TTP), which has mounted dozens of deadly attacks across Pakistan.

Pak military strike kills 6 civilians in Afghan's Kandahar

KANDAHAR

At least six civilians, including women and children, were killed and five others injured after Pakistani military forces launched artillery attacks on three residential homes in Spin Boldak district of Afghanistan's Kandahar Province, local media reported on Saturday.

The attack occurred as the third round of peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan took place in Istanbul, which reportedly ended without progress. According to eyewitnesses, multiple mortar and artillery shells struck civilian areas without provocation, shattering the fragile truce between the two neighbours.

Hayatullah, a resident of Spin Boldak who lost his mother in the attack, described the horrifying scene: Two or three mortar shells hit our home. My mother was martyred, and this child was injured in the arm.

Another resident, Abdul Manan, said, "Two shells hit his house, killing his young son and grandson while injuring other family members. It's very painful. No one can understand it. No one knows what we are going through."

In addition to residential homes, a local commercial centre was also struck, causing heavy damage to nearby businesses and property. Eyewitnesses condemned the Pakistani military's actions as flagrant violations of international humanitarian law.

Tunisian oppn moots collective hunger stir in support of jailed politician

TUNIS

Prominent members of Tunisia's political opposition have announced they will be joining a collective hunger strike in solidarity with jailed politician Jawhar Ben Mbarek, whose health they say has severely deteriorated after nine days without food.

Ben Mbarek, the cofounder of Tunisia's main opposition alliance, the National Salvation Front, launched a hunger strike last week to protest his detention since February 2023.

Ben Mbarek's father, veteran activist Ezzeddine Hazgui, said during a news conference in the capital Tunis that his son is in a worrisome condition, and his health is deteriorating.

Hazgui said his family would launch a hunger strike in solidarity with his jailed son. 'We will not forgive [Tunisian President] Kais Saied,' he added. The leaders of Tunisia's major opposition parties also declared that they would go on hunger strike in solidarity with Ben Mbarek.

Among them is Issam Chebbi, the leader of the centrist Al Joumhouri (Republican) Party, who is also behind bars after being convicted in the same mass trial as Ben Mbarek earlier this year. Wissam Sghaier, another Al Joumhouri leader, said some party members would follow suit. Rached Ghannouchi, the 84-year-old leader of the Ennahdha party, who is also serving a hefty prison sentence, announced he was joining the hunger protest.

Ghannouchi was convicted in July of conspiring against state security, adding to previous convictions, including money laundering, for which he has been sentenced to more than 20 years in prison and for which he claims innocence.

A post on his official Facebook page said Ghannouchi's hunger strike sought to support Ben Mbarek, but he was also taking a stand to defend the independence of justice and freedom in the country. Ben was sentenced in April to 18 years on charges of conspiracy against state security.

RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

Baloch leader decry Pakistan crackdown in Zehri region

QUETTA

Human rights leader and Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) representative Sabiha Baloch has raised alarm over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Balochistan's Zehri region, where Pakistan's military has imposed a strict curfew for more than 25 days following deadly airstrikes that killed several women and children.

In a video message shared on BYC's official social media accounts, Sabiha said the people of Zehri are enduring severe suffering amid ongoing military operations that have left multiple civilians dead or injured. She claimed residents are now dying of hunger and disease due to the prolonged lockdown and restricted access to basic necessities.

Highlighting the broader crisis, Sabiha alleged that five people were recently killed by state-backed death squads in the Makran region, calling the attacks part of a larger campaign to suppress the Baloch nation and silence those who speak out. She said BYC leaders and activists are being detained, and their names are being added to Pakistan's Fourth Schedule under the Anti-Terrorism Act — a move she described as an attempt to criminalise peaceful dissent.

The state's ongoing genocide must be confronted. Silence will only allow it to grow, she urged, calling on citizens across Pakistan to denounce the government's repression in Balochistan.

Earlier this week, the BYC issued a formal statement condemning Pakistani authorities for placing hundreds of Baloch political activists and human rights defenders on the Fourth Schedule without due legal process. The organisation said the move reflected a dangerous trend to silence legitimate political differences and suppress peaceful activism through intimidation and criminalisation. The statement warned that more names continue to be added to the list daily, deepening fears of intensified repression and further eroding political freedoms across Balochistan.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

5		8		4	2	7		1
1	4	7		8	5		3	9
	6		7	1			4	
9				2	3		8	4
6		4	9	7		1	2	
	3	2	4		1	9	5	
3	2			5	6		7	8
	1	6		3	7	5	9	
7		5	2		4		1	

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only on correct solution.

QUICK READ

Nifty Midcap 150, Nifty 50 lead market gains in Oct

New Delhi
Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty 50 emerged as top performers across all market segments in the month of October, rising 4.79 per cent and 4.51 per cent, respectively, a report said on Saturday. All market cap segments such as large, mid, small and microcaps posted positive returns as the Nifty 500 climbed 4.29 per cent, Nifty Next 50 rose 2.92 per cent, the report from Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund said. Meanwhile, the Nifty Microcap 250 and Nifty Smallcap 250 surged 3.93 per cent and 3.72 per cent respectively during the month. Sectorally, realty led with a 9.2 per cent gain on the back of sustained housing demand.

Indian smartphone market set for moderate growth in 2025

New Delhi
The Indian smartphone market is set to witness moderate growth in 2025, with shipments growing in single digits, according to a new report, adding that the market is poised for sustained momentum driven by 5G upgrades, rising premiumisation and growing consumer demand for connected device ecosystems. According to CyberMedia Research (CMR), India's smartphone market grew 7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth, driven by festive cheer, accelerated 5G adoption, and a strong premium push led by Apple, Vivo, and Motorola. Apple led India's smartphone market by value in Q3 2025 with 30 per cent share, and Samsung followed with 22 per cent.

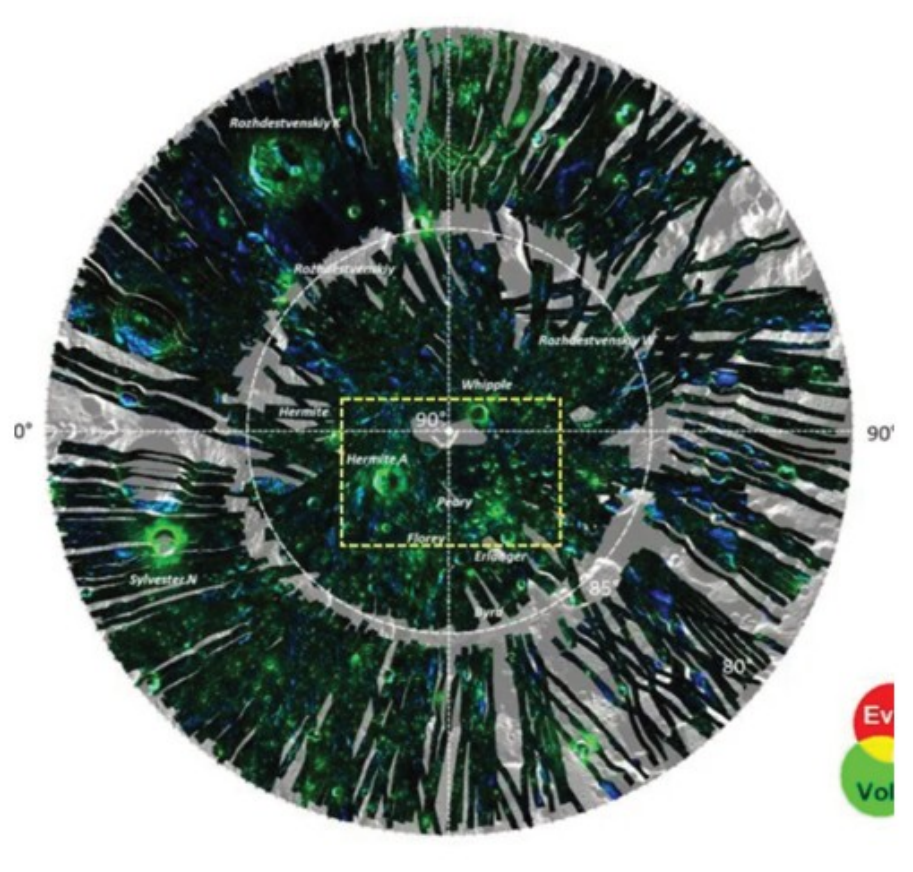
RRP semiconductors in BSE weekly trading basket

Mumbai
Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has imposed a new weekly trading surveillance measure on nine stocks, including RRP Semiconductors, to address excessive volatility following unusual price movements in the stocks. The exchange announced that starting November 10, 2025, new measures will apply to companies exclusively listed on BSE under specific groups, that trade above Rs 100, have a 2 per cent price band, and possess a price/earnings (PE) ratio greater than 500 or negative, and that have reached the upper price band for two consecutive weeks. In continuation of our endeavour to maintain market integrity and curb excessive price movement in securities listed exclusively on the BSE trading platform.

CH-2 dataset major value addition for global lunar exploration: ISRO

'These advanced radar-based data from the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter will help derive first-order information on Moon's north and south polar regions'

NEW DELHI



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday announced a major advancement in lunar science, revealing that it has received sophisticated data products from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter.

These datasets include new parameters on the physical and dielectric properties of the Moon's polar regions, a breakthrough expected to significantly aid future global lunar exploration efforts.

In a post on X, ISRO described the new findings as India's major value addition towards future global exploration of the Moon. The Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, operational since 2019, has transmitted nearly 1,400 radar datasets captured by its Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR), a unique instrument that has been mapping the Moon's surface in unprecedented detail.

According to the agency, the DFSAR is the first radar to map the lunar surface in L-band full-polarimetric mode at a resolution of 25 meters per pixel. This cutting-edge capability — which transmits and receives radar signals in both vertical and horizontal directions — enables scientists to study intricate surface characteristics such as roughness and composition.

Using these datasets, researchers at ISRO's Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad have developed advanced data products that identify potential water-ice deposits and analyse key electrical properties such as the dielectric constant, which provides insights into surface density and porosity. The algorithm for analysing full-polarimetric data was developed entirely in-house by ISRO scientists.

The space agency noted that these data products will help derive first-order information about the Moon's polar regions, which are believed to preserve the early chemical conditions of the solar system. They also complement hyperspectral data, enhancing studies on lunar mineral distribution and evolution.

The announcement follows ISRO's successful launch of the heavy-lift LVM3-M5 rocket carrying the CMS-03 communication satellite, reaffirming India's expanding leadership in space exploration.

'READ, LEARN & EXPLORE'

The datasets are now freely available to the global scientific community through ISRO's PRADAN data portal at the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) and can be visualised via the CH2 MapBrowse platform. ISRO has invited researchers to explore the data and use it for advancing lunar science and understanding the Moon's evolution.

SEBI warns investors over unregulated 'digital gold'

MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a strong advisory warning investors against purchasing or trading digital gold or e-gold products offered through online platforms.

The regulator clarified that such products operate entirely outside India's securities and commodities regulatory framework, exposing investors to significant risks.

In an official statement, SEBI said, It has come to the notice of SEBI that some digital or online platforms are offering investors the opportunity to invest in 'Digital Gold/E-Gold Products'. Digital Gold is being marketed as an alternative to investment in physical gold. The regulator highlighted that these products are neither classified as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives, meaning they fall completely outside SEBI's jurisdiction.

Since these offerings are unregulated, investors have no access to SEBI's investor protection mechanisms in case of disputes or defaults. Such digital gold products may entail significant risks for investors and may expose them to counterparty and operational risks, the statement warned.

Several online platforms and jewellers have been promoting digital gold investment schemes, allowing customers to invest small amounts — as low as ₹10 or ₹100 — while marketing features such as instant buy/sell options and redemption for physical jewellery. However, SEBI urged investors to exercise caution and instead opt for regulated gold investment channels.

The regulator reiterated that safe and regulated options include gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) from mutual funds, exchange-traded commodity derivatives, and electronic gold receipts available on stock exchanges. These investment avenues are supervised by SEBI-registered intermediaries and operate within a well-defined regulatory framework.

According to the World Gold Council, India's gold ETFs saw record inflows of $850 million in October 2025, taking the total for the year to $3.05 billion, the highest-ever annual figure reflecting strong investor interest in regulated gold instruments.

The unregulated online platforms offering digital gold products are neither classified as securities nor regulated commodity derivatives, states SEBI.

'67.94 lakh DLCs generated to enhance ease of living of pensioners'

NEW DELHI

As many as 67.94 lakh digital life certificates (DLCs) have been generated to enhance the ease of living of pensioners so far this year, of which 40.42 lakh are through face authentication, according to an official statement on Saturday.

In five days (from November 1-5), 25.60 lakh DLCs have been generated, of which 15.62 lakh (61 per cent) are through face authentication. More than 37,000 DLCs of pensioners above 90 years and 985 of pensioners above 100 years have been generated, the statement said.

The face authentication technique can be carried out easily through smart phones anytime anywhere. It enables easy DLC submission by pensioners and is particularly useful for aged and sick pensioners who do not have to visit any bank or pension disbursing authority.

A nationwide DLC campaign 4.0 has been launched by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare in collaboration various stakeholders (Pension Disbursing Banks, India Post Payments Bank, Pensioners' Welfare Associations, CGDA, EPFO, DoT, Railways, UIDAI and MeitY) from November 1-30, 2025, with the aim of touching all the pensioners in remotest corners of the country.

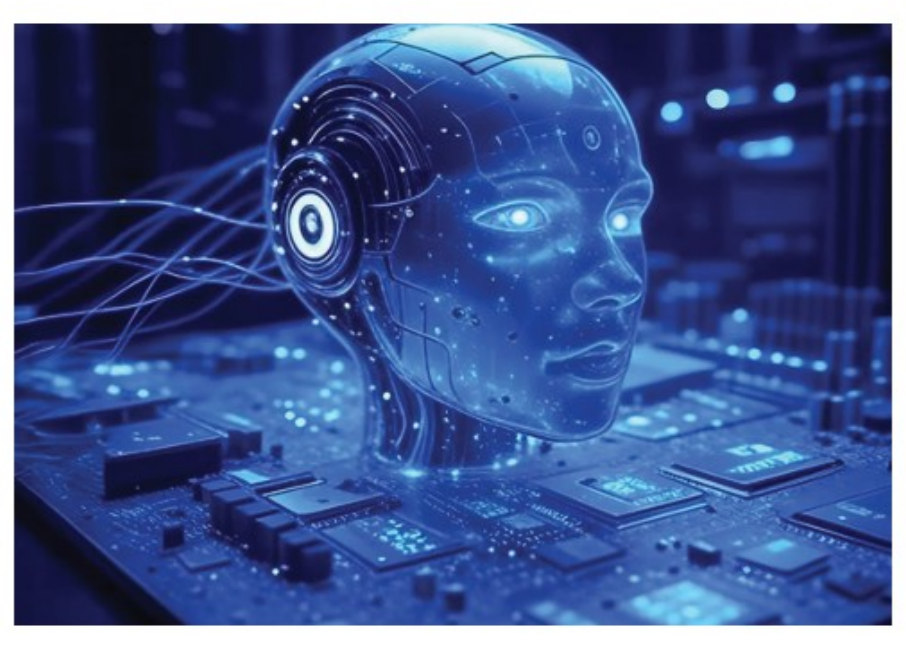
V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare inaugurated a mega camp organised by Punjab National Bank at the Sansad Marg branch here.

Addressing the pensioners, he highlighted the initiative taken by the government for their digital empowerment.

Telecom operators worldwide are adopting AI for network optimization, customer service, and fraud prevention, driving profitability.

AI helps shape telecom sector, boost profitability: IDC

NEW DELHI



Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the global telecommunications industry, with major operators deploying it across network operations, customer service, and fraud detection to enhance efficiency and cut costs, according to a new report by the International Data Corporation (IDC).

The report highlights that AI-driven initiatives are already contributing to improved EBITDA margins, with predictive maintenance and automated customer support emerging as leading areas of application. By anticipating network failures and resolving issues before they affect users, telecom companies are reducing downtime and operational expenses.

AI is also playing a critical role in personalizing customer experiences through tailored offerings and dynamic pricing models, helping to increase average revenue per user (ARPU) while minimizing churn. In parallel, AI-enhanced fraud detection systems are significantly reducing financial losses, improving customer trust, and ensuring stronger compliance with regulatory standards.

IDC noted that AI is accelerating the time-to-market for new telecom services, enabling companies to better monetize technologies such as 5G, IoT, and edge computing. In the longer term, as AI continues to evolve, it will be increasingly recognized not as a mere technological enhancement, but as a strategic enabler poised to drive sustainable growth for telecommunications operators, the report stated.

The global telecommunications and pay TV services market is expected to reach $1,532 billion in 2025, reflecting a 1.7% year-on-year increase. This marks a slightly more optimistic forecast than earlier this year, driven by stronger growth expectations across key regions.

'Mobile services continue to dominate market'

According to Kresimir Alic, IDC's Research Director for Worldwide Telecom Services, regional variations remain influenced by inflation, competition, and ARPU trends. Mobile services continue to dominate the market, fuelled by growing data consumption and machine-to-machine (M2M) applications, even as traditional voice and messaging revenues decline.

Fixed data services are also projected to grow steadily, supported by surging demand for high-bandwidth connectivity. Overall, the global connectivity services market is expected to maintain a 1.5% compound annual growth rate over the next five years, reflecting cautious optimism for the sector's AI-powered future.

Handloom, textile sector heartbeat of Manipur's economy: Guv Bhalla

IMPHAL

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Saturday described the handloom and textile sector as the heartbeat of Manipur's economy, emphasizing that women weavers form its very foundation.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Manipur International Textile Expo (MANITEX) 2025 at Urban Haat, Nilakuthi, Imphal, he lauded the resilience and artistry of Manipuri women for preserving the state's cultural heritage while contributing to a sustainable future.

The women of Manipur, through their artistry and resilience, have not only safeguarded our traditions but are also shaping a sustainable future for generations to come, the Governor said. He added that government initiatives such as One District One Product (ODOP), PM Mitra Parks, and Digital India's e-commerce integration are empowering artisans with technology, innovation, and better market access.

Governor Bhalla noted that these combined efforts are strengthening the Made in Manipur brand — a symbol of authenticity, sustainability, and excellence. When we uplift our weavers, we uplift communities, ensuring that Manipur's legacy continues to inspire the world, he remarked.

Describing MANITEX 2025 as more than just an exhibition, the Governor called it a celebration of Manipur's rich identity, creativity, and craftsmanship. Each weave tells a story of our people, our culture, and our enduring connection to the land, he said. From the hills to the valleys, every community contributes its own unique themes, colours, and techniques, reflecting the beautiful diversity that defines Manipur's textile heritage.

Flight op back to normal at Delhi Airport: DIAL

NEW DELHI

Delhi airport operator DIAL said on Saturday that flight operations at the country's busiest airport are back to normal since afternoon, after the major malfunction of the air traffic control system that happened, delaying over 800 flights and stranding passengers.

All flight operations are normal at Delhi airport, DIAL wrote in a passenger advisory on X. However, DIAL asked passengers to stay in touch with their airlines for the latest flight updates.

Earlier in the morning, DIAL had said that the technical issue which affected the AMSS was gradually improving.

"Airline operations at Delhi Airport are returning to normal, and all concerned authorities are working diligently to minimise any inconvenience caused," it said on X.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which has four runways, handles more than 1,500 flight movements daily.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) said it has addressed the technical issue in the AMSS, which caused delays in processing flight plan messages.

The OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) was engaged, and additional staff were deployed to manually process Flight Plans for the Air Traffic Control system to ensure uninterrupted and safe air traffic operations immediately.

Centre rolls out deep-sea fishing reforms to expand blue economy

CHENNAI

The central government has announced a new set of rules governing deep-sea fishing activities within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), with a focus on empowering traditional fishermen, cooperatives, and small-scale operators.

The notification, issued this week, marks the implementation of a key Budget 2025–26 commitment aimed at promoting sustainable exploitation of India's vast marine resources while enhancing livelihoods in coastal communities.

According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the revised framework seeks to streamline licensing and operational norms for deep-sea fishing vessels, ensure equitable access to offshore resources, and encourage the adoption of modern fishing technologies.

The rules also emphasize the role of fishermen cooperatives and self-help groups in managing fleets and marketing their catch directly, reducing dependence on large commercial intermediaries.

Officials said the move is expected to improve India's deep-sea fishing capacity, which has remained underutilized despite the country's extensive 2.02 million sq km EEZ.

INDIA'S GDP SURGE

Rural consumption outshines urban demand

NEW DELHI

Rural consumption continues to outperform urban demand in the country despite income tax cuts and GST 2.0 reforms aimed at boosting urban consumption, a report said on Saturday.

The report from brokerage firm Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL) said that rural consumption outshines because of income guarantee schemes, better rainfall outcomes, NBFC-led credit growth, easing input costs and steady MSPs. MOFSL's base case projection was that real GDP growth will touch 6.8 per cent for FY26, with a 20–30 basis point upside if tariff uncertainties abate, and a nominal GDP growth projection at 9 per cent.

It maintained that urban consumption has recovered since implementation of GST reforms and also from Q3FY25, but rural consumption outshined.

The brokerage firm said that rural consumption has been on a steady uptrend since H2FY25, strengthening further in Q2FY26 (up 7.7 per cent YoY) to its highest level in 17 quarters.

The upturn was supported by firm growth in real agri and non-agri wages, higher tractor and fertilizer sales, and robust farm credit. Better rainfall distribution and reservoir levels boosted sowing activity, while easing input costs and steady minimum support price (MSP) procurement helped improve farm incomes, the firm highlighted.

Regarding rural spending, the report detailed that the high frequency October data — including E way bills, petrol consumption, mall footfalls and PMI readings — were broadly positive in the first full month of GST 2.0 implementation.

Urban spending remained subdued through Q2 FY26 but improved after GST reforms through the festive season, with jewellery demand staying firm in October despite high gold prices.

Rural demand is expected to remain on a steady upward trajectory, underpinned by rising real wages. Healthy rabi prospects, coupled with lower rural inflation, should help to sustain the ongoing improvement in consumption, the report noted.

STUDENT SUICIDES

An epidemic sweeping India

'Around 14,000 school children die by suicide every year in India; Student suicides have increased by 65% in the past decade'

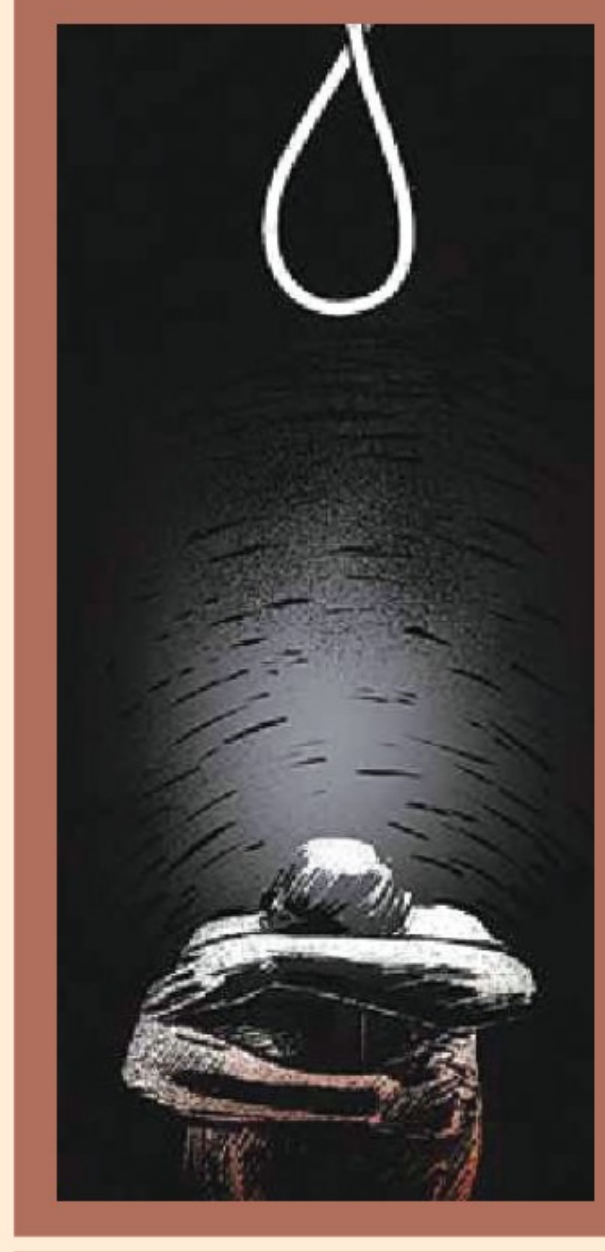
COLLEGE
STUDENT SUCIDIES IN INDIA

Questions about India's education system have been raised time and again. The contradictions, pressures, and insensitivities within this system have created a frightening reality — around 14,000 school children in India die by suicide every year, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Even more alarming, student suicides have increased by 65% in the past decade, and by 34% since 2019. These are not just numbers — they are the graves of innocent dreams crushed by an inhuman education mechanism.

PUT INTO RACE TO PROVE 'WORTH'

From early childhood, students are thrown into a relentless race where marks, grades, and ranks define their worth – not knowledge, creativity, or character. Schools have become exam factories; teachers and parents measure success only by results. Education, instead of nurturing the soul, has become a stress-producing machinery. The threefold pressure of coaching classes, parental expectations, and fear of failure slowly breaks a child's spirit.

As Kabir said, "Reading and learning make a scholar, but not a man of understanding." Our education produces informed minds but not enlightened beings. The rote-learning culture, mark-based evaluation, and emotional disconnect of teachers inject fear, not confidence, into children. Cities like Kota, Patna, Hyderabad, and Chennai have become tragic symbols of this industrialized education. Every year, dozens of young aspirants there end their lives. What thrives is not education, but the business of competition. Living away from home, students are haunted by fear and isolation – until despair consumes them.



PRESSURE, PRESSURE EVERYWHERE

Behind these deaths lie the unbearable burdens of academic competition, parental ambition, and institutional apathy. This is not an isolated crisis–it mirrors the collective failure of India's educational ethos. The Supreme Court has recently sought explanations from state governments, questioning whether schools and colleges are fulfilling their responsibility toward students' mental health. How long will education remain a battlefield of competition instead of a journey of discovery?

'JOYFUL EDUCATION & REDUCED EXAM PRESSURE'

The NEP 2020 promised joyful, holistic learning, but little has changed. The marks race continues, coaching thrives, and student mental health suffers. True education, as Gandhi said, should nurture body, mind, and soul; Vivekananda saw it as building confidence and strength. Yet today's system burdens children with books, not wisdom. Unless education becomes human-centered, it will keep producing unemployed graduates and lost souls instead of empowered individuals.

ALARMING SURGE

As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, student suicides increased from 6,654 in 2013 to a record high of 13,892 in 2023, a surge of nearly 65% over a decade. In 2022, student suicides accounted for 7.6% of all suicides in the country.

GOVT'S PREVENTIVE MEASURES

National Task Force: The Supreme Court of India has established a national task force on student mental health to assess resources and suggest suicide prevention strategies.

Tele-MANAS Helpline: The government launched this national, toll-free, 24/7 helpline (14416 or 1800-89-14416) to provide accessible mental health support in over 20 languages.

Manodarpan initiative: The Ministry of Education has implemented this program to provide psychological support to students, teachers, and families through various activities and a dedicated helpline.

Supplementary exams: Following recommendations from NGOs, some states have introduced supplementary exams for students who fail, allowing them to save an academic year and reducing "exam failure" suicides.

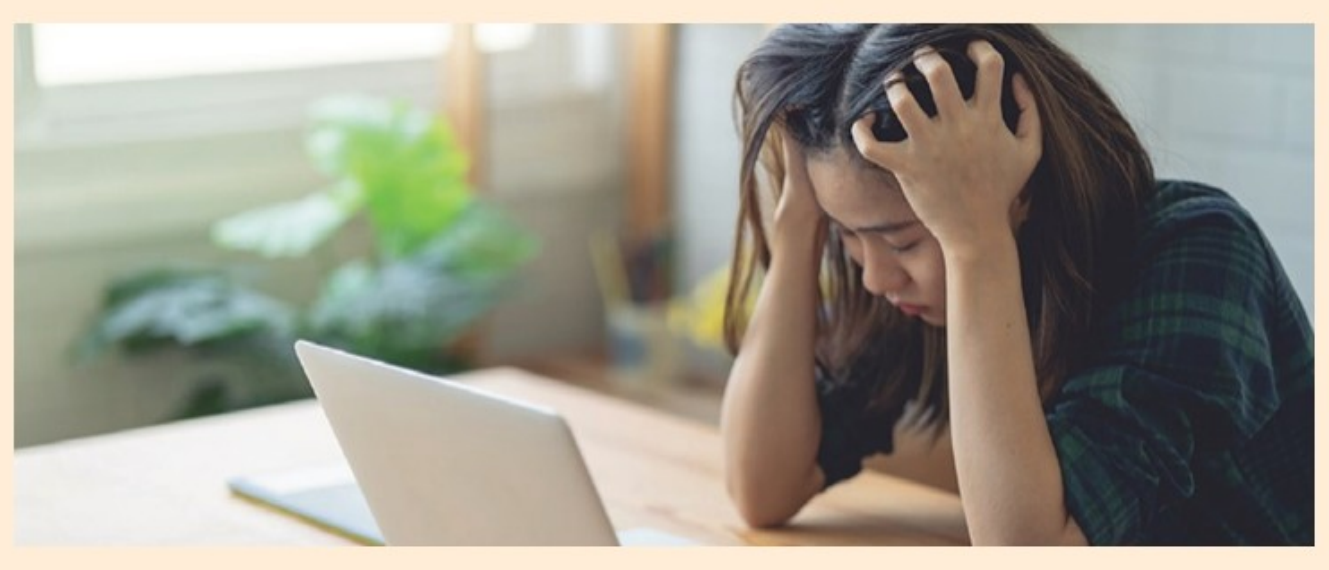
FAMILY, SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Parents and teachers must realize that a child is not a project but a living soul. Before shaping them into models of success, we must let them blossom naturally. When teachers become mere evaluators and parents judge worth by report cards, the child's self-esteem withers. What we need is emotional dialogue – at home and in school – where children can share their fears and failures without judgment. Mental health remains neglected in Indian education. Most schools lack even a basic counseling system. Students are never taught how to manage stress, accept failure, or express emotions. The so-called "toppers" are often those silently breaking inside. Many who end their lives never spoke of their pain to anyone. As Sri Aurobindo said, "True education is that which brings out the divine within." The time has come to redefine our educational goals – where personality matters more than performance, creativity more than competition, and happiness more than success. If we fail to act, the number 14,000 will rise – not as a statistic, but as the haunting testimony of our national insensitivity. The epidemic of student suicides is not merely a tragedy; it is a moral and emotional emergency demanding immediate reform.

'LIFE IS LARGER THAN A MARK SHEET'

Education must become a medium of life-understanding, not merely information transfer. Until children learn that life is larger than a mark sheet, this crisis will persist. Schools must integrate meditation, yoga, art, music, and value education into daily learning. We need a culture of compassion, not competition. Education should not merely produce degrees, but develop resilience, creativity, and emotional strength. When a child begins to believe that death is easier than life, it reflects our collective failure – of families, teachers, and society. The purpose of education cannot be limited to academics alone. The real question is: Are we educating our children or slowly breaking them? When learning becomes a reason for suicide, education turns self-destructive. What we urgently need is education that teaches children to love life, not escape it.

LALIT GARG, COLUMNIST



ECHOES OF THE WILD

When AI camera traps come to wildlife rescue

Wildlife conservation in India is changing with technological advancements over the last decade. AI-enabled camera traps are making it possible to identify species, prevent human-wildlife conflicts and expedite monitoring. It saves researchers time and makes real preservation effective.

The wildlife conservation landscape in India has been slowly changing over the last decade. On-device artificial intelligence (AI) is now joining traditional camera traps. As these cameras are equipped with machine-learning modules, we can instantly categorize the photos/videos taken from them, the species of animals, their factual identity and the dangerous events that accompany them such as access by predators or human intrusion. With this we can not only identify the problems, but also employ scientific methods and technology to mitigate them, besides studying their long-term impacts. Thanks to on-device AI, forest control or conflict management teams can be alerted in case of dangers and thus real time wildlife conservation and human-wildlife conflicts can be easily tackled.

AI FOR WILDLIFE AID

However, the places where AI-powered cameras around, particularly wildlife parks in Uttarakhand, including Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve in Nainital district of the state, are comparatively safe from dangers. Similarly, AI camera alert systems in the big tiger landscape of Madhya Pradesh have been effective at reducing human-wildlife conflict. A recent Camera Trap Survey conducted at Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Maharashtra has taken the presence of leopards in urban forests under close surveillance. Camera traps have also been made easier in Kaziranga National Park in Assam and some other wildlife parks, including Tamil Nadu. But this feature is not available everywhere right now. In this way, AI-enabled camera traps have now taken the monitoring of wildlife beyond research levels to an attempt to protect them and rid them of conflict.

Invasion into privacy

However, the challenges are still not low, real-time connectivity is not possible in rural areas or where there is no internet access as facilities such as solar charging are still not easy. In addition, local geographical factors like excessive rainfall or higher winds create a lot of false triggers. The most important thing is about privacy and the social impact of wildlife. Various reports say the use of cameras and drones have become a means for monitoring or harassing rural masses in the name of forest surveillance, creating distrust among local communities and forest workers. Therefore, the adoption of technology requires transparency, local engagement and privacy policy.

VIJAY GARG
RETIRED PRINCIPAL & EDUCATIONIST

ALIEN SPACESHIP?

China captures MYSTERY VISITOR from deep space

In a rare and exciting space event, China's Mars orbiter Tianwen-1 has captured stunning close-up pictures of Comet 3I/Atlas when it passed very near Mars in October 2025. This is the first time such clear images of this comet were taken from another planet, and the story behind it is truly fascinating.

China's Tianwen-1 mission entered Mars orbit in 2021. It carries advanced cameras and scientific instruments to study the planet's soil, rocks, air and magnetic field. It also helped China land its first Mars rover Zhurong. Even after completing its main mission, the orbiter continues to support new scientific discoveries, proving its value time and again.

For those who don't know, a comet is a small space object made of ice, dust and rock. When it travels close to a star, the ice melts and forms a bright tail that we can see. Comets were formed billions of years ago during the early creation of star systems. The leftover ice and dust that did not turn into planets slowly joined together to make these icy bodies. Because they are extremely old, comets still contain very ancient material that has remained mostly unchanged since the beginning of their star systems.

But Comet 3I/Atlas is not just any ordinary comet. It is special because it is an interstellar comet—it comes from outside our Solar System. It will pass through our space only once and then leave forever. Studying this comet is valuable because it carries old material from deep space, which can help scientists understand how planets and stars form in other solar systems.

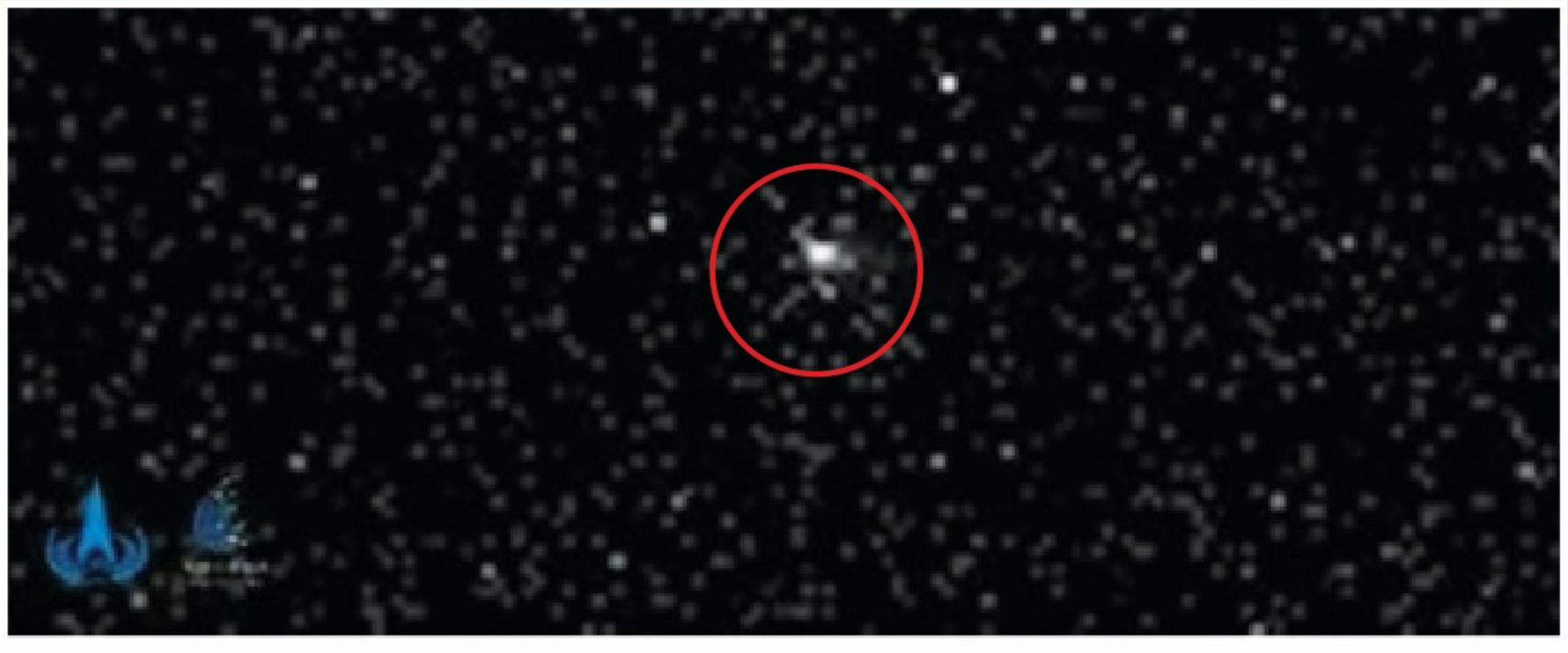
According to India Today, Comet 3I/Atlas is only the third time in history that scientists have confirmed an object coming from outside our Solar System entering our space. Think about it—this has happened only two times before in human history. It was first spotted on July 1, 2025 by the ATLAS telescope system in Chile. Since this comet is not trapped by the Sun's gravity, it passed close to Mars on October 3, at a distance of about 28 million km, and then continued moving out of our Solar System forever.

Now here's where things get interesting.

The object that came from outside our Solar System created a lot of talk online, with some people even thinking it could be alien because NASA has not given clear answers yet.

DEFENCE AND SPACE ANALYST

GIRISH LINGANNA



The pictures were taken by Tianwen-1, China's ongoing Mars exploration mission. (Image credit: CNSA)

Several NASA spacecraft have taken pictures of it, but those images will be released only after the US government shutdown ends. A government shutdown means many government offices stop working temporarily because the budget approval is delayed, which is why we haven't seen NASA's images yet.

But China's Tianwen-1 spacecraft, which has been orbiting Mars since 2021, still managed to capture this comet even though it was extremely faint—thousands of times dimmer than normal objects it usually takes pictures of. This achievement alone shows the technical capability and dedication of the Chinese space program. The pictures show a bright cloud of gas and dust around a hard icy core that is a few hundred meters to less than 1 km wide. The comet is also moving on a special hyperbolic path—a path that does not bring it back to the Sun—and releasing gas actively, which is very different from normal comets that are born inside our Solar System. When it comes close to the Sun, the ice melts and forms a bright tail that we can see from far away. Some people first suspected it might be an alien spaceship, but the pictures actually show a bright comet center covered by a glowing cloud of gas and dust. These images help scientists understand this rare space object better and put to rest any wild theories about extraterrestrial visitors. Since the comet came very close to Mars, Tianwen-1 was able to capture rare, high-quality images from Mars orbit. These pictures will help scientists study what the comet is made of and learn more about the early history of the universe. The data collected from Mars adds extra support to the observations from Earth telescopes and other orbiters like ESA's ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, and NASA's Hubble and Webb Space Telescopes.

Scientists around the world are excited because this gives a rare chance to study material that was formed near other stars. This can help us understand how planets and solar systems are created outside our own Solar System. It's like getting a messenger from another neighborhood in our galaxy, carrying secrets from billions of years ago.

The images taken by Tianwen-1 show that China is becoming an important player in Mars research and interstellar science. These pictures from the point of view of Mars add new and useful information for scientists. While other space agencies were delayed or limited, China stepped up and delivered valuable data to the global scientific community.

So let's be clear—this is not an alien spaceship. Comet 3I/Atlas is a natural visitor from deep space. Its strange, ghost-like look reminds us that there are still many mysteries far beyond our Solar System. But that doesn't make it any less exciting. In fact, studying these ancient travelers from other star systems might teach us more about the universe than we ever imagined. This event shows how international space exploration continues to reveal the wonders of our universe, one discovery at a time. Whether it's China, America, or India, every contribution to space science benefits all of humanity.

ISHAAN MADESH dominates National Karting Championship round

Mumbai's Kiaan Shah (Rayo Racing) won the junior max category, starting second and finishing comfortably ahead despite jostling

BENGALURU

Bengaluru teenager Ishaan Madesh of Peregrine Racing delivered a stunning performance to clean sweep the senior max category in the fifth round of the MECO-FMSCI National Karting Championship 2025 at Meco Kartopia on Saturday. Ishaan topped every session — from practice and qualifying to heats, pre-finals, and finals — strengthening his lead in the championship before the final round next weekend. "It wasn't easy, especially the finals. They were catching up, and I had to keep pushing," Ishaan said after holding off strong challenges from Aarav Dewan of Gurugram (Leapfrog Racing) and Krish Gupta of Mumbai (Rayo Racing), who finished second and third.

The event also saw Mumbai's Kiaan Shah (Rayo Racing) claim victory in the junior max category after starting second on the grid. Despite heavy jostling early in the race, Kiaan kept his cool to cross the line comfortably ahead of his rivals.

In the mini max class, Rehan Khan Rasheed from Chennai (Momentum Motorsport) clinched both pre-final and final wins. Championship leader Rivaan Dev Preetham faced a collision in the pre-finals but bounced back to finish second, followed by Faridabad's Yatharth Gaur (Leapfrog Racing), who posted the fastest lap. The micro max category was dominated by Coimbatore's Shiv Neel (MSPORT), son of India's first Formula 1 driver Narain Karthikeyan. Starting from P3, Shiv displayed great skill to win, with Arshi Gupta of Faridabad taking second and local favorite Shiv Tummala (Peregrine Racing) finishing third.

RATHIKA SEELAN shines bright in NSW Open

NEW DELHI

Indian squash star Rathika Suthanthira Seelan has entered the final of the NSW Open in Sydney after an impressive straight-games victory against New Zealand's Emma Merson on Saturday. The 24-year-old player from Tamil Nadu, currently ranked 180 in the world, won 11-9, 11-7, 11-6 in just 32 minutes.

This will be Rathika's fourth appearance in a PSA final. Her strong form continued from last week's North Coast Open, where she reached the semifinals. Now, she will face the tournament's top seed, Canadian Iman Shaheen, in what promises to be an exciting title clash in the Challenger event.

Rathika's steady rise in international squash has been marked by grit and focus. Her ability to handle pressure and adapt quickly on court has made her one of India's most promising young talents. A win in Sydney could significantly boost her world ranking and confidence as she aims for more international titles ahead. Meanwhile, in Springfield, USA, another Indian, Veer Chotrani, ranked 51 in the world, moved into the semifinals of the St. James Expression Open, a PSA Copper event. He defeated Egypt's second seed, Mohamed ElSherbini, after a thrilling five-game battle with scores of 7-11, 12-10, 11-8, 5-11, 11-6.

Rathika's rise in international squash, marked by grit and focus, shows her adaptability and promise; a Sydney win could boost her ranking and confidence significantly

Both Indian players' performances mark a strong weekend for Indian squash on the global stage, bringing renewed hope for more podium finishes and world recognition in the months to come.

Abhishek Sharma sets records with 1000 T20i runs

BRISBANE

Indian cricketer Abhishek Sharma created history by completing 1,000 runs in T20 Internationals, setting both world and national records during India's fifth and final T20I against Australia at The Gabba on Saturday. The young left-hander reached the milestone faster than any other player for a single country in terms of balls faced, and also became the quickest Indian to do so based on matches played. Abhishek surpassed Australia's Tim David, who had previously held the global record by scoring 1,000 runs in 569 balls. Abhishek bettered that mark with an outstanding innings that showcased his fearless batting style. His achievement placed him ahead of India's Suryakumar Yadav and New Zealand's Finn Allen, who had required 573 and 611 balls respectively to reach the same milestone.

In terms of matches, Abhishek almost equaled Virat Kohli's record, who took 29 matches and 27 innings to score 1,000 T20I runs. Abhishek achieved the mark in 28 innings, becoming the fastest Indian ever by matches played. Globally, the fewest-match record remains shared by England's Dawid Malan and Czech Republic's Sabawoon Davizi, who reached 1,000 runs in their 24th game.

Meanwhile, India's Sanju Samson (995 runs) and Tilak Varma (991 runs) are both close to joining the 1,000-run club but missed out as they were not part of the playing XI for the decider. Interestingly, Abhishek survived two early scares during his innings before reaching the milestone, adding extra drama to his historic moment at The Gabba.

Sanjay to captain India at Sultan Azlan Cup

NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Saturday announced the Indian men's squad for the 31st Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025, scheduled in Ipoh, Malaysia, from November 23 to 30. Defender Sanjay has been appointed captain of the national team for this prestigious invitational tournament.

India will begin their campaign against Korea on November 23, followed by matches with Belgium (Nov 24), Malaysia (Nov 26), and New Zealand (Nov 27), before ending the group stage against Canada (Nov 29). The event will follow a round-robin format, with the top two teams meeting in the final on November 30. The Indian squad includes goalkeepers Pawan and Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar. Defenders Poovanna Chandura Boby, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Yashdeep Siwach, Jugraj Singh, Amit Rohidas, and captain Sanjay form a strong backline. The midfield will be led by Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Vivek Sagar Prasad, and Mohammed Raheel Mouseen. India's forward line features Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Selvam Karthi, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Dilpreet Singh, and Abhishek, while Varun Kumar, Vishnu Kant Singh, Hardik Singh, and Angad Bir Singh are listed as standbys.

India last lifted the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in 2010 and finished as runners-up in 2019. Chief coach Craig Fulton expressed optimism, saying the tournament offers a crucial opportunity to refine strategies in attack and defence and build momentum ahead of the 2026 World Cup and Asian Games.

AC Milan eyes Lewandowski for January transfer move

MILAN

Italian giants AC Milan are reportedly exploring a possible January move for Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski, as the club looks to solve its ongoing goal-scoring problems.

According to reports from SportItalia, Milan have already held preliminary talks with Lewandowski's representatives to assess potential scenarios for the winter transfer window.

Milan's management believes the Polish forward's proven record across Germany, Spain, and Europe could add much-needed experience and consistency to their attack. The Rossoneri currently lack a true penalty-box presence, relying heavily on creative midfielders and wingers rather than a reliable finisher. Bringing in a veteran like Lewandowski could immediately raise the team's attacking profile.

Inside sources say Milan view the 37-year-old in a similar light to Luka Modric, another experienced leader they acquired recently. The plan is reportedly to structure a low-cost or free transfer, rather than paying a large mid-season fee. Lewandowski's leadership, work ethic, and professionalism are seen as invaluable for Milan's young squad. However, completing the deal remains complicated. Lewandowski has privately expressed a desire to stay at Barcelona for at least one more year, even if it means accepting a smaller role or reduced salary. Meanwhile, Barcelona's financial struggles and lack of immediate replacements make them reluctant to sell their only senior striker midway through the season. The situation is expected to be reviewed at the end of the current campaign, when Barcelona will evaluate Lewandowski's form, contract status, and wage demands. If he becomes available next summer, Milan are positioning themselves as a strong contender to sign him for the 2026–27 season.

Lando Norris grabs stunning pole in Sao Paulo sprint

SAO PAULO

McLaren's Lando Norris delivered a brilliant performance to secure pole position in Sprint Qualifying at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix on Friday. The British driver clocked an impressive 1 minute 09.243 seconds in his final lap, beating Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli and teammate Oscar Piastri to clinch the top spot. Norris first set the pace with a strong banker lap in SQ3, then went even faster on his last attempt, leaving rivals unable to match his time. Antonelli finished just 0.097 seconds behind, earning a front-row start, while Piastri secured third for a strong McLaren showing. George Russell added to Mercedes' success by taking fourth place.

Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso impressed with a fifth-place finish, while teammate Lance Stroll took seventh. Max Verstappen, the defending world champion, ended up sixth and appeared frustrated after his final lap. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc claimed eighth, followed by Racing Bulls' Isack Hadjar and Kick Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg, who rounded out the top ten. Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton narrowly missed SQ3, finishing eleventh after being caught under yellow flags caused by Leclerc's spin. He now faces a post-session investigation for a possible infringement. Further down the order, Alex Albon, Pierre Gasly, Gabriel Bortoleto, and Ollie Bearman were eliminated in SQ2. Franco Colapinto, newly confirmed to stay with Alpine in 2026, placed 16th. Liam Lawson finished 17th, Yuki Tsunoda 18th, Esteban Ocon 19th, and Carlos Sainz struggled to 20th after locking up on his final run.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Nicolás Fernández, Martínez fire NYCFC past Charlotte

Nicolás Fernández scored twice in stoppage time while Alonso Martínez added another goal as New York City FC defeated Charlotte FC 3-1 on Friday night to win their first-round MLS Cup playoff series. The victory sends NYCFC into the second round, where they will face top-seeded Philadelphia Union away from home. Fernández, the 25-year-old midfielder in his debut season, opened the scoring in first-half stoppage time with a solo strike, giving fifth-seeded NYCFC a 1-0 halftime lead. The visitors extended their advantage when Martínez netted five minutes into the second half, finishing off a clever pass from veteran Maxi Moralez.

DENVER

Nuggets crush Warriors as Jokic leads easy victory

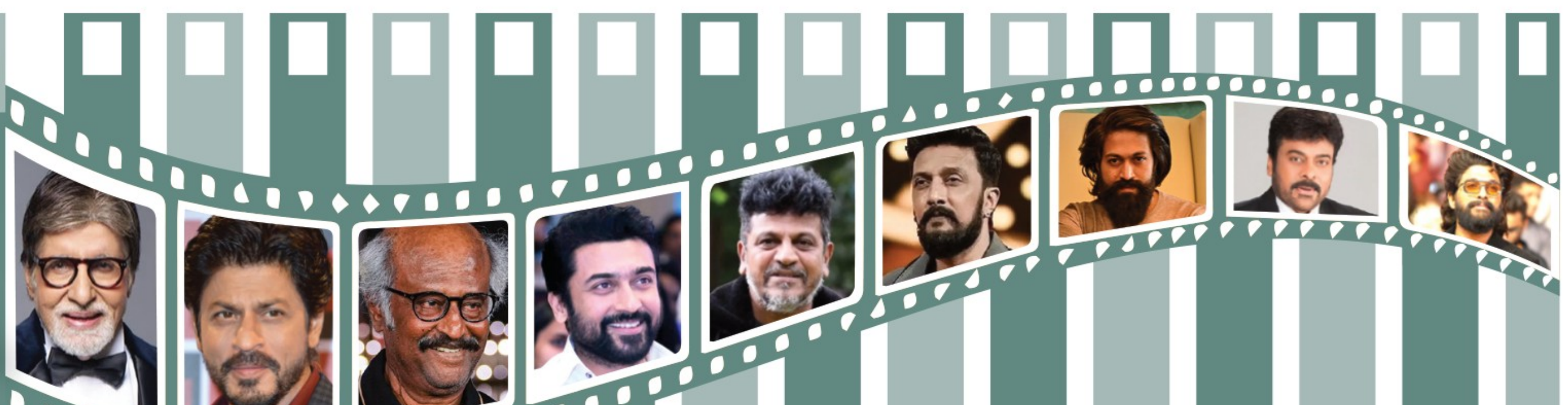
Nikola Jokic scored 26 points and came close to another triple-double as the Denver Nuggets defeated the Golden State Warriors 129-104 on Friday night. The Nuggets improved their unbeaten home record to 5-0 and continued their strong start to the season.

Jokic, who sat out the entire fourth quarter, finished just one rebound and one assist short of what would have been his sixth triple-double of the season. Jamal Murray added 23 points as Denver notched its sixth win in seven games since losing to the Warriors on opening night. The defending champions have now won all three games of their current homestand, which concludes Saturday against the Indiana Pacers.

SAN JOSE

Will Smith's late goal lifts Sharks over Jets

Will Smith scored the decisive goal late in the third period as the San Jose Sharks edged the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 on Friday night, extending their strong run of form in the NHL. The win gave San Jose their fifth straight game with a point (4-0-1), continuing their early-season momentum. Rookie sensation Macklin Celebrini shined once again, recording a goal and an assist to take the NHL scoring lead with 23 points (nine goals, 14 assists). Goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic made 32 saves, securing his third win in four starts and keeping the Sharks steady through key defensive moments.



RAJINI TO BE FETED AT IFFI 2025

‘Amaran’ nominated for ‘Golden Peacock Award’

The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), set to take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2025, will honour superstar Rajinikanth for completing 50 glorious years in cinema. The veteran actor will be felicitated at the closing ceremony, marking one of the most anticipated highlights of this year’s edition.

Rajinikanth, who continues to reign as one of Indian cinema’s most iconic figures, will next be seen in Nelson Dilipkumar’s action entertainer Jailer 2. The IFFI tribute is expected to celebrate his unparalleled contribution to Indian and global cinema.

Meanwhile, Kamal Haasan took to social media to congratulate the team of Amaran, starring Sivakarthikeyan and Sai Pallavi, after the film was nominated for the Golden Peacock Award and chosen as the opening feature film in the Indian Panorama section.

Sharing a poster of the film, Kamal wrote, Proud to share that the immortal story of Major Mukund Varadarajan, which stirred India’s soul, will now echo across the world.

IFFI 2025 will feature over 240 films from 81 countries, including 13 world premieres, 4 international premieres, and 46 Asian premieres. The festival aims to celebrate diversity, inclusivity, and digital storytelling while highlighting the rich tapestry of Indian regional cinema.

Speaking about the event, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, said, IFFI 2025 marks a significant chapter as it embraces inclusivity and diversity, showcasing voices from all corners of the world while spotlighting India’s regional cinematic brilliance.

This year’s edition will also commemorate the centenaries of legendary artists such as Guru Dutt, Raj Khosla, Ritwik Ghatak, P. Bhanumathi, Bhupen Hazarika, and Salil Chowdhury, through special screenings of their timeless works — a fitting tribute to Indian cinema’s enduring legacy.

A new Kannada suspense-crime thriller titled Pistol is getting ready to hit the screens. The film is produced under the banner of Aathma Cinemas by Prabeek Mogaveer, who has also written the story and screenplay. The movie will be directed by Ved, known for School Ramayana and Raven.

Vasishta Simha unveils ‘Pistol’ title poster

Actor Vasishta N. Simha recently released the title poster of Pistol and wished the team success. He said the title and poster were intriguing and praised the team for attempting a unique concept.

Prabeek Mogaveer, well known in Sandalwood as an actor, producer, and director, is the main force behind the project. He is not only producing and writing the film but will also play a key role in it.

Unlike regular films, Pistol will not have a typical hero or heroine. The story itself will take center stage, featuring six main characters — similar to a pistol with six bullets. The makers are also in talks with a popular South Indian actor for a special appearance.

Prabeek earlier gained fame for his multilingual film Gadiyara and later acted in movies like Tanike, Shantiyannu Kaledu Kollabedi, and Raven. Most of the scripting and pre-production work for Pistol is complete, and shooting is expected to start by the end of this year. The film is likely to release in mid-2026.

The title poster, released by Vasishta Simha, has gone viral on social media, earning a positive response from fans.

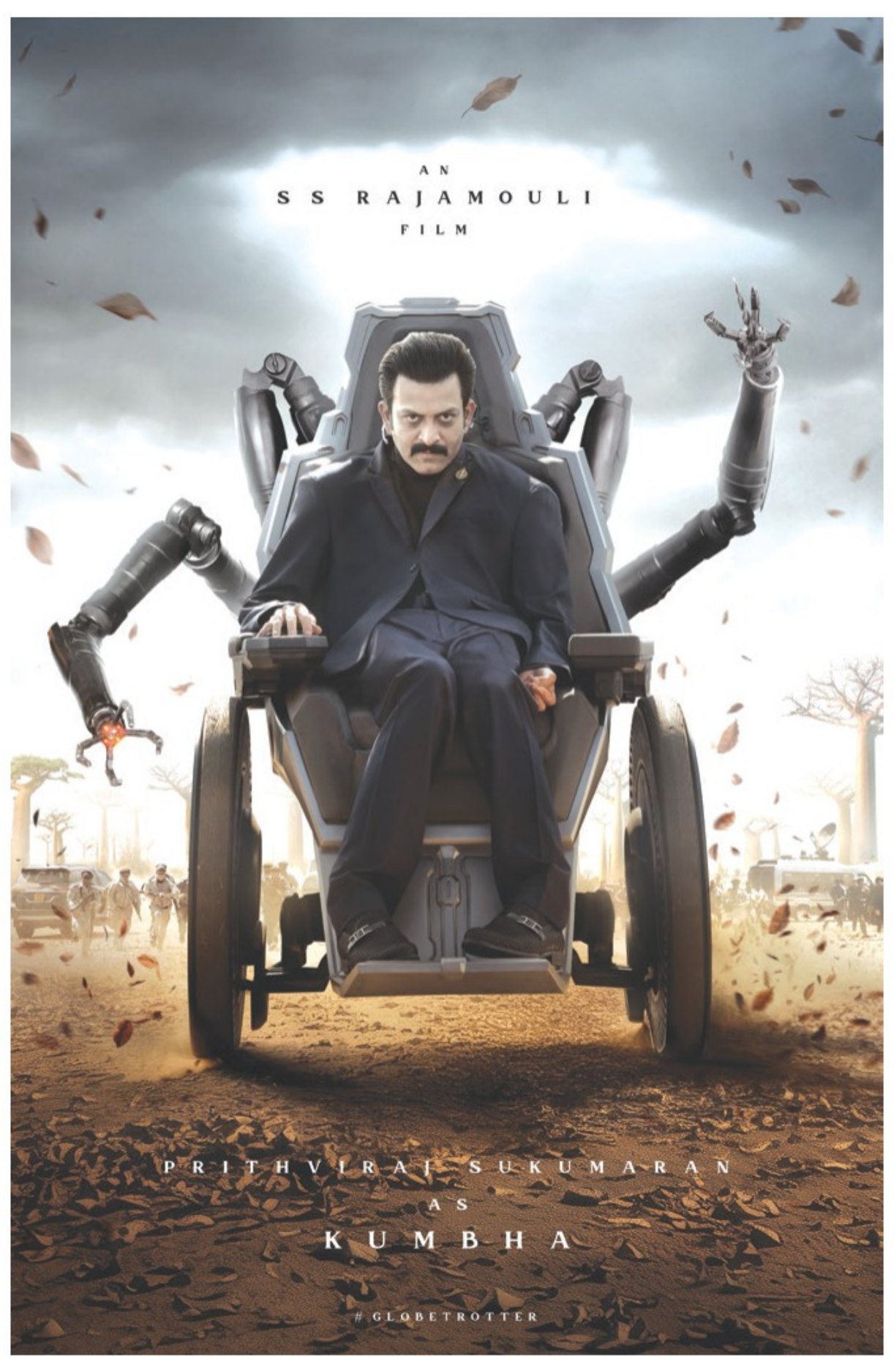
Prithviraj’s futuristic look as ‘Kumbha’ in Rajamouli's globe trotter

Ace director SS Rajamouli, who gained global fame with Baahubali, is now busy with his next ambitious project starring superstar Mahesh Babu in the lead role. The untitled film, currently being shot at a rapid pace, is said to be one of Rajamouli’s biggest ventures yet.

Malayalam and Tamil actor Prithviraj Sukumaran, who was earlier confirmed to be part of the cast, has now been officially revealed as the main villain.

According to the latest update, he will play the antagonist named Kumba opposite Mahesh Babu. The announcement came through a striking new poster released by the film’s team.

The poster has sparked excitement among fans, with many drawing comparisons to the look of Spider-Man 2’s Doctor Octopus and Suriya’s villainous character in 24.



Prithviraj’s intense appearance and powerful screen presence have already raised expectations for the film’s storyline.

Sources close to the production say the movie will feature grand visuals, high-octane action, and a gripping narrative in Rajamouli’s signature style. The collaboration between Mahesh Babu and Rajamouli has been one of the most awaited combinations in Indian cinema.

The makers have also announced that the film’s first-look poster will be unveiled on the 15th of this month, promising fans a glimpse into what could be another cinematic spectacle from the Baahubali director.

Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas has returned to singing with a desi version of the iconic song ‘Last Christmas’ for filmmaker Gurinder Chadha’s upcoming movie Christmas Karma. The film, inspired by Charles Dickens’ classic A Christmas Carol, will hit Indian theatres on December 12 through PVRINOX Pictures.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA sings desi version of ‘Last Christmas’

Calling Chadha a dear friend, Priyanka said she was happy to lend her voice to a project that celebrates the Indian diaspora. I hope this desi twist to a song that has long been the soundtrack of Christmas resonates with audiences, she said.

Chadha, best known for Bend It Like Beckham and Bride and Prejudice, thanked George Michael’s estate for allowing a reimagined version of his 1984 hit. I’m grateful we could bring our own Hindi twist to this timeless track. When I called Priyanka to sing it, she kindly stepped in with her beautiful version, she said.

Christmas Karma stars The Big Bang Theory actor Kunal Nayyar as Mr. Sood, a modern-day Scrooge, with Eva Longoria, Billy Porter, and Boy George playing the Ghosts of Christmas. The ensemble cast also includes Leo Suter, Pixie Lott, Charithra Chandran, Danny Dyer, and Hugh Bonneville.

The film’s soundtrack features a lively mix of gospel, bhangra, carols, and pop, with performances by Gary Barlow, Chopra, Porter, and Malkit Singh. PVR Pictures CEO Kamal Gianchandani called it a joyful holiday film made even more special by Priyanka’s voice.

Ranbir’s undergoes intense prep for ‘Ramayana’

Actor Ranbir Kapoor is undergoing an intense physical and mental transformation for filmmaker Nitesh Tiwari’s much-awaited epic Ramayana, which is being hailed as one of India’s biggest films.

His trainer, Shivohaam, recently shared glimpses of the actor’s remarkable journey from his bulky look in Animal to a leaner, more sculpted form suited for divine roles.

The 42-year-old star is set to play dual characters — Lord Rama and Parashuram — requiring a major shift not just in physique but also in mindset. His training focuses on agility, balance, precision, and a calm spiritual presence to embody both mythological figures authentically.

Ranbir’s new regimen, designed by an elite team of fitness experts including Nam-Wook Kang, combines indoor and outdoor workouts. His routine features calisthenics, clap pull-ups, roman ring muscle-ups, kettlebell conditioning, battle ropes, cycling, swimming, and hiking across rugged terrain. Each exercise is tailored to enhance strength, endurance, flexibility, and grace — qualities vital for the demanding roles.

TOM HIDDLESTON returns in ‘The Night Manager 2’ teaser

The much-awaited teaser for The Night Manager Season 2, starring Tom Hiddleston, has finally been released, marking the actor’s return to his acclaimed role after eight years. The new season of the spy thriller will premiere on January 11, 2026, on Prime Video, with episodes dropping weekly until February 1.

In the teaser, Hiddleston’s character, Jonathan Pine, now living under the alias Alex Goodwin, reflects on his turbulent past but refuses to give in to it. I am the man who will not explode, he declares, setting the tone for another gripping chapter.

The second season, shot across the UK, Spain, Colombia, and France, follows Pine as he uncovers a new arms conspiracy threatening to destabilize a nation. Working as a low-level MI6 officer in London, his quiet life is disrupted after spotting a familiar face from his past. This leads him to cross paths with Colombian businessman Teddy Dos Santos, played by Diego Calva, and businesswoman Roxana Bolanos, portrayed by Camila Morrone.

As Pine infiltrates a Colombian arms operation, he becomes entangled in a deadly web of deceit and power, forcing him to question loyalties and confront betrayal at every turn.

Entered Hollywood on my own terms: DEEPIKA

Actor Deepika Padukone has said that her journey in Hollywood has been guided by a conscious decision to represent India authentically, not through the lens of Western stereotypes. Speaking at Global Leadership Summit alongside designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, the 38-year-old star said she wanted to take India to the world on my own terms.

Padukone shared that she often encountered clichés about India in the West — from biased casting to remarks about her accent and skin tone. I never wanted to enter Hollywood the way it was expected of us or shaped for a global audience. I wanted to do it my way, even if it took longer, she said.

The actor made her Hollywood debut in 2017 with XXX: Return of Xander Cage alongside Vin Diesel and has since represented India on several global platforms, including Cannes, the FIFA World Cup, and the Oscars.

Recalling her Louis Vuitton global campaign, Padukone said seeing her image on Sunset Boulevard made her feel proud. It wasn’t just a personal victory but a win for every Indian woman, she said.

She also spoke about lending her voice to Meta AI, saying it was ironic since her voice and accent were once mocked.

On artificial intelligence in cinema, she said she is hopeful yet cautious. AI can do many things, but it can never replace human emotion or soul, she added.

Kendrick Lamar, Lady Gaga lead Grammy 2026 nominations

Rapper Kendrick Lamar has topped the nominations for the 2026 Grammy Awards, securing nine nods and once again leading the race for music’s highest honor. Pop icon Lady Gaga followed closely with seven nominations, marking another strong year for both artists.

Lamar’s GNX and Gaga’s MAYHEM are set to face off for the prestigious Album of the Year award at the ceremony scheduled for February 1 in Los Angeles. Despite multiple past nominations, neither artist has won in this top category.

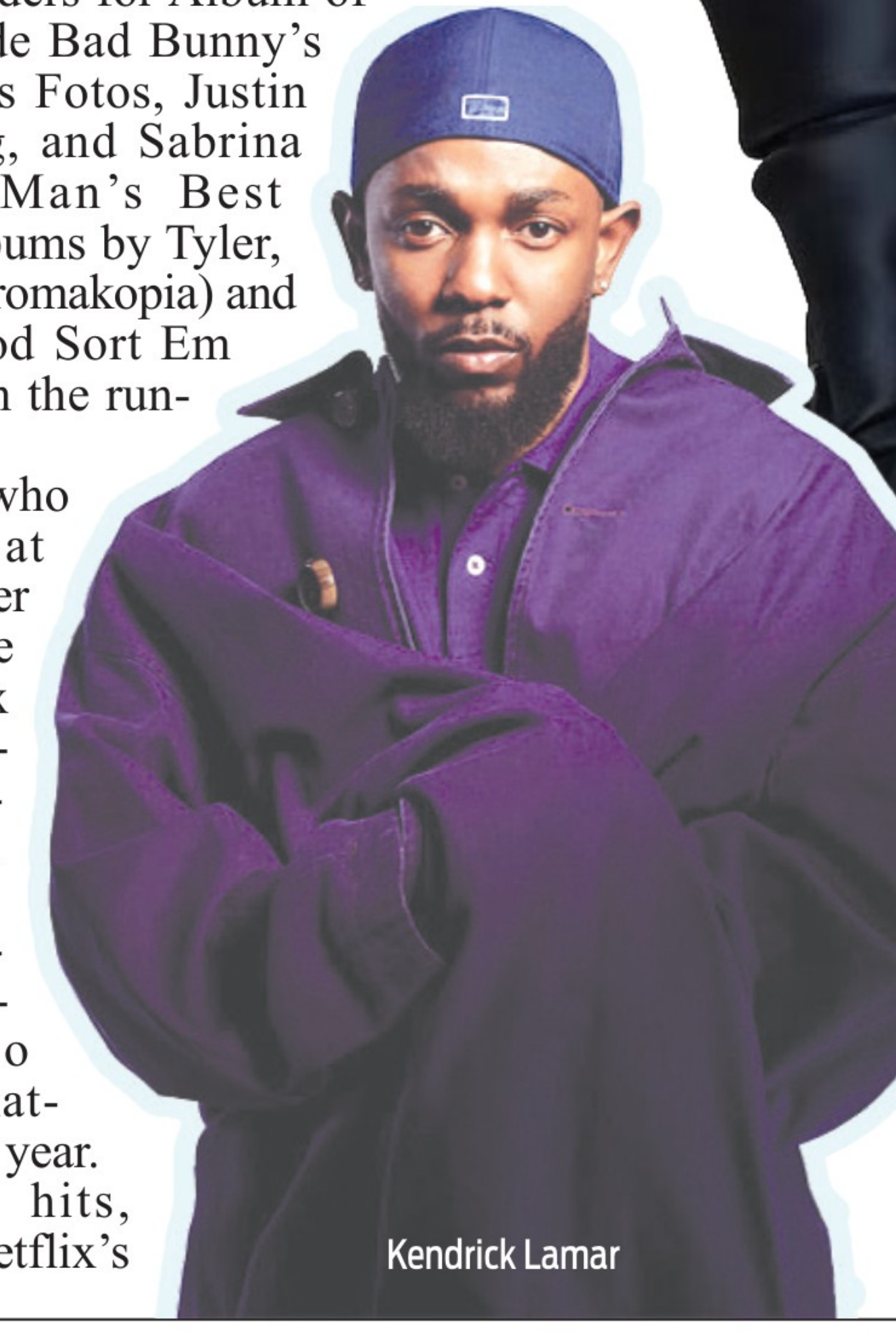
Other contenders for Album of the Year include Bad Bunny’s Debí Tirar Más Fotos, Justin Bieber’s Swag, and Sabrina Carpenter’s Man’s Best Friend. Rap albums by Tyler, the Creator (Chromakopia) and Clipse (Let God Sort Em Out) are also in the running.

Bad Bunny, who will perform at next year’s Super Bowl halftime show, earned six nominations, including for Record, Song, and Album of the Year — becoming the first Latin artist to achieve this hattrick in a single year.

Two K-pop hits, Golden from Netflix’s KPop Demon Hunters and APT. by Rosé and Bruno Mars, landed Song of the Year nominations. APT. also secured nods for Record of the Year and Best Pop Duo/Group Performance.

In the Best New Artist category, Olivia Dean and KATSEYE will compete with Leon Thomas, Alex Warren, and others.

Winners will be selected by the Recording Academy’s 15,000 voting members.



Kendrick Lamar

Lady Gaga

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